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THE HISTORY OF ENGLAND

FROM THE YEAR 1830—1874

FROM THE RIGHT HON. JOHN BRIGHT'S SPEECH AT BIRMINGHAM:

"It is a great misfortune that the history of our country that is nearest our own times young men are least acquainted with. It is not written in histories that were read at school, and they are not old enough, as I am old enough, to remember almost every political fact since the great Reform Bill of 1832. I wish young men would read some history of this period. A neighbour and a friend of mine, a most intelligent and accomplished clergyman—Mr. Molesworth—has published a work, being a political history of England from the year 1830—that is from the first Reform Bill—until within the last two or three years: a book honestly written, in which facts are plainly—and I believe truly—stated, and a work which would give great information to all the young men of the country, if they could be prevailed upon to read it."

THE

HISTORY OF ENGLAND

FROM THE YEAR 1830—1874.

35610

BY

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LIBRARY EDITION.

VOL. III.

LONDON:
CHAPMAN AND HALL, 193, PICCADILLY.
1876.

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A HISTORY OF ENGLAND,

ETC.

CHAPTER I.

SEBASTOPOL.

WE are now entering on a period which presents some very marked contrasts with those that preceded it. The prospect of a great European war turned men's thoughts from those important organic changes which had so strongly stirred their minds; and, after the close of the war, those changes were regarded by them in a different light. They were still as resolved to obtain the franchise as they had been in the palmiest days of the charter, and they possessed much greater power of enforcing their claim to it. But they pressed it less eagerly, because they rightly felt that social and moral changes which were within their reach were more needed, and more likely to benefit them than political changes. And though the majority of the upper and middle classes still resisted the claims of the working classes, they no longer dreaded them as the precursors of a revolutionary deluge. If, therefore, the extension of the franchise was less eagerly demanded, it was also less vehemently resisted.

More or less closely connected with these changes in public feeling were the changes which were taking place in the legislature. The House of Lords had now tacitly accepted that place in the constitution which the victory of the people had

assigned to it. It no longer arrogated to itself a legislative authority co-ordinate with that possessed by the representatives of the nation; and the Commons, on the understanding that they should enjoy an unquestioned superiority of real power, were quite willing that the Peers should retain their superiority in dignity and precedence. In both Houses the subjects under discussion were, with few exceptions, such as were not calculated to agitate men's minds in the way that the great changes we have related had done. There was in the legislature, as in the country, a subsidence of political excitement; and in consequence the debates in both Houses were, as a rule, less vehement, less sensational, less rhetorical, more decorous and business-like, but redundant to an extent that seriously delayed the progress of public affairs.

This abatement of party-spirit was not without its effect on the composition of the government; the cabinets having generally a more representative character than had hitherto belonged to them, and containing men whose views avowedly differed very widely, but who were content to merge their differences in order to promote the objects and measures they agreed in desiring to carry. Of course to some extent this had all along been the case; but it was so in a much more marked degree throughout the period whose history we have now to narrate.

It was generally supposed that, notwithstanding the strategical error which the emperor had committed in ordering the occupation of the Danubian provinces, his army, led as it was by able generals, well supplied with food, clothing, and warlike material, admirably drilled, and, to all appearance, highly effective, would speedily dissipate any force that the Turkish government might send against it; but, to the great mortification of the Russian emperor, and to the gratification and astonishment of the rest of Europe, the Russians, defeated by the Turkish forces at Kalafat, Oltenitza, Citale, Giuergevo, were repulsed again and again from, and eventually obliged to abandon the siege of, the earthwork of Silistria, garrisoned by a

body of Turkish troops, commanded by two or three English lads, and were at length ignominiously expelled from the provinces they had so aggressively entered. At this moment the emperor—humbled by the reverses he had undergone; looking forward with painful apprehension to a war in which, owing to the immense naval preponderance of the allies, he must needs be shut up in his own dominions, seems to have been willing to make peace. Unfortunately the moment that found him disposed to meet any overture made to him, but not willing to be lowered in the eyes of his subjects, found the allies less disposed than they had been to make fresh advances.

But we must return from the struggle in the Principalities to the events that had occurred elsewhere. Though the occupation of them had been followed by war between Russia and Turkey, the great powers did not cease from their efforts to bring about an amicable settlement of the question at issue between the belligerents. On the 29th of January the French emperor wrote to the czar an autograph letter, proposing terms which would have carried with them no humiliation; but the czar, who at this moment was rather provoked than humbled by the unexpected vigour with which the Turks were encountering his invasion of the Danubian provinces, replied in a somewhat haughty tone, and made an allusion to the retreat of the French from Moscow, which looked like a menace. His reference to that disaster was perhaps intended to serve as a warning to the French nation not to enter into a war which might prove to be more serious than they anticipated. If this was his object, he greatly miscalculated the effect this unfortunate allusion was likely to have on that high-spirited nation. They needed not to be reminded of that terrible disaster, and the invasion that followed it; they too well remembered the events to which he referred, were burning to avenge them, and were more likely to be exasperated than deterred by this reference to them. About the same time another very earnest attempt was made to quench the warlike conflagration that had

commenced. A deputation from the Society of Friends travelled to St. Petersburg to implore the Russian emperor to prevent the farther effusion of blood. They were kindly and courteously received. The czar listened attentively to their address, and in the reply that he made to it, he professed his desire for peace, but added that he could not permit the Turks to violate the stipulations of treaties made for the protection of his co-religionists. But he had already decided on the course he would pursue, and neither imperial nor quaker remonstrances could turn him from it.

And now at length it became necessary that serious preparations should be made for hostilities. Nearly forty years had elapsed since this country had been engaged in a war on a scale to be at all compared with that into which she was now drifting. When troops began to be sent out, it was found that the transport-service was in a most ineffective condition—indeed, it would be nearer the truth to say that no transport-service existed—and yet somehow or other the means must be provided for sending out an army, with all its arms, ammunition, baggage, and other necessary supplies, a distance of some 3000 miles by sea. All the troops that could be spared at the outbreak of this war amounted to about 25,000, and some time must elapse before even that number could be despatched to the seat of war. It was determined that vessels for the transport of this force should be at once hired or purchased, and that they should carry ten thousand men to Malta, to be landed there, and forwarded as soon as possible to Constantinople, by such means of conveyance as could be procured. The vessels which transported them were to return at once to England, and carry out another detachment of fifteen thousand men direct to Constantinople. By this means it was hoped that the whole force would arrive about the same time at the places where its presence might be required. Other troops were sent after them as soon as possible.

The general appointed to command the English contingent

was Lord Raglan. As Lord Fitzroy Somerset he had accompanied the Duke of Wellington in the Peninsular war, during which he had acted as his military secretary. He had therefore reached an age at which prudence generally predominates over enthusiasm. He was not, indeed, a brilliant, but a thoroughly safe man; one who might be fully trusted not to risk the destruction of the force committed to his care by any wild or desperate enterprise. Always accustomed to ask himself when in difficulties what 'the Duke' would do under similar circumstances, he was a little old-fashioned in his military notions, and not well acquainted with or disposed to adopt the improvements in the military art which had been adopted since the duke's days. The French colleague, with whom he was somewhat unequally yoked, was cast in a very different mould. In Algiers he had bravely and skilfully, but somewhat remorselessly, sustained the glory of the French arms, when he was sent for to aid in carrying out that plot which had for its object the restoration of the empire in France. Of that restoration he had been the soul; and the part he had taken in effecting it was rewarded by his being put at the head of the army which was to co-operate with our troops in the operations to be undertaken against Russia. Marshal St. Arnaud was well adapted to fill the post to which he was thus appointed. Brave, skilful, experienced, and coolly daring, he was as little likely to compromise his troops as Lord Raglan, but more likely to make those bold and successful strokes by which the fate of a campaign is often decided. The army under his command was far more numerous than that under the orders of the British general; but to balance this difference in the land-forces it had been agreed that the English fleet should be much larger than the French fleet, and as Marseilles and Toulon were much nearer to the seat of war than the places from which the English troops were embarked, the expenses incurred by the two allied governments were on the whole not very unequal. The immense naval superiority of the allies enabled them to command the

Black Sea, the Sea of Azof, the Baltic. and the White Sea—in a word, all the waters by which the Russian coast was washed, and thus to cut off communication by sea between Russia and the rest of the world, and enable the allies to make a descent on any part of that coast which they might deem to be vulnerable, to re-embark after having effected what they could there, and then go away to make another unexpected descent on some distant and ill-defended place. By this means the whole coast was kept in a state of constant alarm; the Russian government was obliged to dismantle many of its fortifications, lest they should shelter their enemies, and to keep large forces on foot to be ready to meet any attempt that might be made by the allied fleets or the troops they conveyed with them. The limits of this History will not allow us to follow out the events of the desultory warfare thus carried on; we must fix our attention on that which was the main object of the contest between the two contending parties—the defence or the destruction of Sebastopol, to which the Russian Black Sea fleet had retired. In point of fact, all the other attacks that were made after this attempt was determined on were little more than diversions intended to prevent forces or supplies from being sent to that part on which the attention of both parties was chiefly concentred.

It was on the 8th of February that the Russian ambassador, Baron Brunow, quitted London. On the 21st of that month the czar issued a manifesto, in which he denounced England and France as having ranged themselves side by side with the enemies of Christianity against Russia, which was fighting for the orthodox faith. On the 27th the ultimatum of the British government was conveyed to him in a letter written by Lord Clarendon, the British Minister of Foreign Affairs, to Prince Nesselrode, the Russian minister, and containing the following passage:

'The British government, having exhausted all the efforts of negotiation, is compelled to declare to the cabinet of St. Peters-

burg that, if Russia should refuse to restrict within purely diplomatic limits the discussion in which she has for some time past been engaged with the Sublime Porte, and does not by return of the messenger who is the bearer of my present letter announce her intention of causing the Russian troops under the orders of Prince Gortschakoff to commence their march with a view to re-cross the Pruth, so that the provinces of Moldavia and Wallachia shall be completely evacuated on the 30th of April next, the British government must consider the refusal or the silence of the cabinet of St. Petersburg as equivalent to a declaration of war, and will take its measures accordingly.' The only reply vouchsafed by the Russian government to this communication was a verbal announcement to the English consul, that the emperor did not consider it becoming in him to give any reply to Lord Clarendon's letter; and shortly after, war was formally declared.

We pass over the various stoppages made by the troops sent out at Valetta, Gallipoli, Constantinople, Scutari, and Varna; and we shall not attempt to give any account of the hardships, annoyances, and difficulties, avoidable and unavoidable, to which they were exposed during their stay at these different places. We proceed at once to relate the steps that were taken with a view to obtain possession of Sebastopol. The design of this attack originated with the Duke of Newcastle, the Secretary of War, who persuaded his colleagues that it might be easily captured, and that to take it would be the likeliest means of bringing the war to a close. On the 29th of June he wrote to Lord Raglan, requesting him on the part of her Majesty's government, to concert measures with his colleague for the siege of Sebastopol, unless, with the information in Lord Raglan's possession, but unknown in this country, he should be decidedly of opinion that it could not be undertaken with a reasonable prospect of success. Neither the English general nor his French colleague possessed any trustworthy information on this subject, and nearly all the knowledge they were able to

obtain before their actual arrival in the Crimea was communicated to them by the government at home. They, however, decided on carrying out the instructions received by Lord Raglan, which were exactly in accordance with those which St. Arnaud had received from his government. Had they been aware of the obstacles and difficulties with which they would have to contend, they would probably have hesitated longer. But both the minister who gave the order, and the generals who carried it out, hoped that by a sudden assault, by land and sea, on Sebastopol, before the Russians had time to strengthen its exterior fortifications, the allies would gain possession of the town, the harbour, and the Black Sea fleet, and thus put an effectual check on the supposed projects of the Russian government. How far they were justified in forming these expectations we shall have occasion to see presently. But it is evident to any one who considers the position of the different powers, that if the objects for which the war was commenced were to be attained at all, the next move was to attack the place where the Black Sea fleet was sheltered. The decision to do so having been made, measures were promptly taken to transport the allied forces from Varna, where they were now assembled, to a point in the Crimea whence they could most conveniently march on Sebastopol. After many deliberations and much reconnoitring, it was determined that the landing should be effected at a part of the coast called the Old Fort, near the town of Eupatoria. Here, accordingly, 27,000 English, 22,000 French, and 5,000 Turks were landed. The remainder of the French force, being left behind for the present, for want of a sufficient number of transports to convey the whole of it over, was to follow as soon as possible. The allies then marched southwards along the coast, meeting with no resistance till they approached the banks of the river Alma, on the other side of which a Russian army, commanded by Prince Mentschikoff, was strongly posted and entrenched on the heights overlooking the river from that side. After a long and deadly attack,

bravely sustained by the Russians, the allies forced their way into the Russian entrenchments, compelling the Russian army to retreat, after having suffered heavy losses. But the allied troops were too much fatigued, and too weak in cavalry, to be able to follow up immediately the advantage they had gained. After resting on the field of battle, they marched on, still keeping near the sea, without meeting with any serious resistance; and there is every reason to believe that if the fleet had, immediately after the landing of our troops, proceeded to force its way into the harbour of Sebastopol, and our troops had assaulted the north-west side of the town, which at that time was very slightly fortified, as an attack from the land side was an event on which the Russian government had not calculated, Sebastopol would have fallen at once into the hands of the allies.

A young and daring general would undoubtedly have done this. Lord Raglan, though he had reached an age at which the spirit of caution and calculation generally predominates over the spirit of audacious enterprise, was nevertheless willing to make the attempt; and we may be sure that he would not have consented to it if he had not felt tolerably certain of succeeding. But his colleague, St. Arnaud, who fully possessed the *élan* and daring necessary for such an enterprise, was at the moment suffering from a severe and agonizing illness, which carried him off only a few days after. He refused his concurrence, and his refusal was the cause of the long and wholly unforseen protraction of the siege. The allied army continued its march southward past Sebastopol to Balaclava, pitching their camp near the coast, from which they must now draw their supplies of provisions, ammunition, and other things necessary for carrying on the siege of the town in regular form. Before his death, Marshal St. Arnaud, acting on sealed orders he had brought out with him, transferred the command of the French army to General Canrobert.

The course adopted by the allies had been rendered necessary

by the measures that had been taken by Prince Mentschikoff, the Russian general. Profiting by the respite that the allies had given him, he determined to make one of those desperate but prudent and calculated sacrifices of which the history of Russia affords several instances. He gave orders that seven of his largest ships should be sunk across the entrance of the harbour of Sebastopol, in such a manner as to render it impossible for the allied navies to force their way into it. By this great sacrifice he made it impossible to carry the place by a naval and military attack, and compelled the allies to prepare for a regular siege. They nevertheless clung to the hope that a severe bombardment, followed by a vigorous assault, would give them possession of the town; and in this hope they laboured hard to bring up their artillery and ammunition. But while they were employed in making preparations for the attack, the Russian general was no less diligent in providing for the defence; and the system of earthworks, now first brought into extensive use, enabled him speedily to render the defences of the place far more formidable than they were when the allies first marched on it. The prize was indeed well worthy of the efforts which the two contending armies were making for the possession of it. Besides the town and a great number of government works and buildings which were contained within its fortifications, there was an immense system of docks, constructed with great skill and at an enormous expense, of solid masonry, and supplied with fresh water by an aqueduct twelve miles long, formed of gigantic blocks of stone. The Russian fleet in Sebastopol at the time of the commencement of hostilities, comprised eighteen line-of-battle ships, seven frigates, thirty-two steamers, thirty-six smaller war-vessels, twenty-eight gunboats, and thirty transports.

An inlet of the sea at Balaclava served as a harbour for the English, and the Bay of Kamiesch for the French. But a long time was necessarily consumed in bringing up stores of various kinds required by the besieging army, and especially in getting

the great siege guns into the position they were destined to occupy—a work which was farther impeded by the heavy and continued fire which the Russians kept up on the besiegers. At length, on the 17th of October, the allies made a tremendous and simultaneous attack by sea and land. The allied fleets, however, were unable to force an entrance into the harbour; and so strong were the fortifications by which it was defended, that, notwithstanding the discharge of an immense number of guns which were brought to bear upon them, the allied fleet made but little impression on them, and the damage that they succeeded in inflicting was speedily repaired. The land-attack was not more successful than that made by sea. The batteries of the allies poured forth on the town such a hail of bombs, cannon-balls, and rockets as had never before been rained on a besieged town; but the batteries of the Russians replied with nearly equal vigour, and at an early period in the contest a powder-magazine exploding in the very midst of the French works, paralyzed their attack throughout the rest of the day, and enabled the Russians to keep up an uninterrupted fire on the British siege-works. After the discharge of an enormous number of projectiles, and a considerable destruction of life on both sides, it was found that little progress had been made by the allies, and that the damage done was such as could soon be repaired. Thus it was evident that, if the town was to be taken at all, it must be taken by the slow process of a regular siege, carried on under very difficult circumstances and against a very powerful garrison, continually supplied with all things that were needed. For the allies, being unable with the force at their disposal to occupy the roads leading from Russia to Sebastopol, could not invest the town. Their cannon had suffered so much from the effect of the discharges made during the bombardment, which was kept up for a few days longer, that many of the guns were nearly rendered unserviceable. On the other hand, the Russians had a garrison in Sebastopol sufficient for the defence of that town, and a far larger army

outside, ready to attack any of the very extended positions which the allies were obliged to occupy.

Thus the allies were not only unable to invest Sebastopol, but were, to a certain extent, themselves besieged in that corner of the Crimean peninsula which they occupied, and were in some danger of being driven to make a precipitate, and perhaps even a disastrous retreat. However, they had, on the whole, the advantage, because supplies and reinforcements could be brought up to them more easily by sea than by such roads as then existed in Russia, and over which the reinforcements of the Russian army had to be marched, and their supplies conveyed, at the cost of an immense number of lives and with ever-increasing difficulty.

The Russian general soon showed that he was determined not to allow the allies to carry on their operations against the town undisturbed. Large parties of Russian soldiers had for some time been reconnoitring in the direction of Balaclava, showing that an attack in that quarter was meditated. At length, on the 25th of October, an army of 30,000 Russians advanced against the English position, hoping to get possession of the harbours and to cut the allies off from their supplies, or at any rate to destroy the stores which had already been landed. The part of the works on which the Russian troops first came was occupied by redoubts, defended by a body of Turkish recruits recently arrived from Tunis, who, after offering a very feeble resistance, fled in confusion. But when the Russians, flushed with this first success, attempted to pursue the advantage they had gained, they soon encountered a very different foe in the Highlanders, commanded by Sir Colin Campbell, who bore the brunt of the Russian attack with great firmness. The British cavalry particularly distinguished themselves in this action, routing a far superior force of Russian cavalry. It was in the course of this engagement that the unfortunate blunder occurred, in consequence of which 607 men galloped forth against an army, and only 198 came back, the rest

having been killed, wounded, or made prisoners. A long, unsatisfactory controversy was carried on some time after, having for its object to decide who was to blame for throwing away, in this foolish manner, the lives of so many gallant men. It seems that the orders were not very clearly expressed, and that the general—Lord Lucan—by whom they were received, misapprehended them more completely than a man in his position ought to have done. In the end, the Russians were forced to retire, without having effected their object; but as they retained some portion of the ground that had been occupied by the allies at the commencement of the battle, they too claimed the victory, and *Te-Deums* were sung all over Russia in honour of this fragmentary success. However, the Russian commander did not abandon the hope of being able to obtain possession of Balaclava. On the very day following the affair which has just been related, the Russians within the town made a sortie with a force of about 6000 men; but near the village of Inkermann they encountered so strong a resistance from a far inferior force, that they were obliged to retreat. The Russian army at Balaclava had been prepared to cooperate with them; but the promptitude and vigour with which the allies repelled the sortie prevented the Russians from entrenching themselves at Inkermann, and thus frustrated the plan of a combined attack on the allied position which had probably been formed. The village of Inkermann, which was the scene of this skirmish, shortly after witnessed a more deadly and decisive contest. It was on the morning of Sunday, November 5th, that the approach of the Russian army was heard, while it was still concealed from view by the mists which overhung the British position. That army had been greatly increased by the arrival of large reinforcements, and every effort had been made to exalt the courage of the soldiers: they had been stimulated by religious services and exhortations, as well as by an abundant supply of ardent spirits; and they came on in the full confidence that they would be able to sweep the comparatively

small British force from the position it occupied. That position was the centre of a grand attack made by the whole Russian army. The obscurity prevented the generals of the allies from discovering what was going on, or from clearly discerning, among a series of attacks on different parts of their position, which were real, and which were mere feints. There was a good deal of confusion in both armies; but the obscurity, on the whole, favoured the Russians, who had received their instructions before they set out, and were moving together in large masses. It was, in fact, a battle fought pell-mell, man against man, and regiment against regiment, with very little guidance or direction from the commanding officers, and consequently one in which the superior skill of the British gave them little advantage. The principal point of attack throughout was the plateau of Inkermann, occupied by the Guards and a few British regiments, who maintained a long and unequal struggle against the main body of the Russian army. It was, in fact, a hand-to-hand contest between superior civilization on the one hand, and superior numbers on the other, in which it is probable that the small British force would have been eventually swept off the field. Bosquet, the ablest of the French generals, with a soldier's instinct, at once divined, amid all the obscurity, turmoil, and confusion, that the British position was the real point of attack; and therefore, leaving a portion of his force to defend his own position, he marched off to Inkermann, and never halted till his troops charged the Russians with such fury that they drove them down the hill, and decided the battle in favour of the allies. The Guards on this occasion displayed courage and firmness which has perhaps never been surpassed, and probably their valour and determination saved the British army. When Lord Raglan, in his report, after highly praising the gallantry they had displayed, and doing justice to the services they had rendered, added that at length they had been forced to retire, they indignantly contradicted the statement, declaring that they had never retired

at all, but had maintained the position assigned to them against all the efforts of the enemy till the French came to their assistance. Thus the Russians sustained another repulse, attended with very heavy loss, which put an end for the present to their attempts to drive the allies from the position they occupied.

Meanwhile Mr. Sidney Herbert, the minister at war, had succeeded in inducing Miss Florence Nightingale, well-known in London for her skilful and self-denying benevolence, to go out and take charge of the military hospitals in which the wounded soldiers were received. Everything connected with the hospitals there was in a state of chaotic confusion. The medical and other stores which had been sent out were rotting in the holds of vessels, or in places where they were not wanted. Provisions had been despatched in abundance, and yet nothing could be found to support men who were simply dying from exhaustion. The system of check and counter-check, which had been devised to prevent waste and extravagance in the time of peace, proved to be the very cause of the most prodigious waste, extravagance, and inefficiency in the great war in which England was now embarked. The sort of dictatorial authority which had been conferred on Miss Nightingale, supported by her own admirable organizing and administrative ability, enabled her to substitute order for confusion, and procure for the multitudes of wounded men who came under her care the comforts as well as the medical attendance they needed. She arrived at Scutari with her nurses on the very day of the battle of Inkerman. Winter was setting in in the Crimea with unusual rigour and severity. In less than a week after her arrival a storm of terrific violence swept over the Black Sea, producing indescribable confusion among the ships of war and the transports. The Agamemnon and Sanspareil, two of the finest ships in the British Navy, were stranded, but were afterwards got off; great numbers of transports perished; some were dashed against one another; others were scarcely able, with all the anchors they could throw out, and all the force of steam

they could exert, to keep themselves from being driven on the shore. An immense quantity of clothing and other stores, which had been sent in them for the army, was cast away. Among the ships belonging to the transport-service that were lost in this storm was the Prince, a magnificent vessel of 2700 tons burthen, which had been especially purchased for this service by the government. She had on board a body of troops, and the greater part of the winter-clothing of the men, as well as medicines, and all things likely to be required for the sick and wounded. She had landed her troops, and was then ordered out of the harbour, which was already overcrowded with transports, and in which, before the commencement of the storm, the wildest confusion and disorder reigned, through the divided authority and ill-defined responsibility of those who had the management of it. When the storm came on, her anchors would not hold; she was dashed against the rocks, and nearly all her crew, together with the valuable and almost indispensable stores she contained, were lost.

The hurricane which had caused these disasters on the sea produced consequences scarcely less terrible on the land. It came rushing over the plateau on which the greater part of the English army was stationed, carrying away the tents, breaking the tent-poles, tearing the canvas to tatters, bearing off the baggage of officers and men, drenching its contents with rain, forcing the very mud from the rocks and dashing it in the faces of the soldiers who were attempting to save something from the general wreck. Such was the violence of the storm, that a large portion of the stores of the commissariat was blown away, and those who had the care of them were so occupied with endeavours to preserve what was left as to be unable to serve out the rations to the men: the cooking fires were extinguished; the very coverlets that afforded a last shelter to the wounded and sick were carried away; and many of these poor creatures, exposed to the cold blast and rain, without help or protection, found an end to their sufferings in death. Some

of those too who had previously been in good health succumbed under the privations and cold to which they were now exposed. Never perhaps did an army pass a more wretched night than that spent by our brave troops on the heights above Inkermann during and after this storm. Without shelter, food or fire, wet, cold, and comfortless, they were obliged to lie down to rest, and if possible to sleep, on the mud, to which rain and the trampling of many men and animals had reduced the surface of their position. All these incidents by sea and land—the blundering arrangements by which such terrible and almost irreparable losses were caused, were faithfully narrated by the correspondents of the daily press at home, called forth a strong feeling of sympathy and compassion, and caused efforts to be made, both by the government and by individuals, to succour those who were exposed to such terrible dangers and cruel hardships. With this feeling was associated one less laudable—a disposition to blame the ministry generally, and those who had the superintendence of the operations especially, not only for those neglects for which they were properly responsible, but for the system which they had found in operation, and for disasters that were the work of the elements, and which no human care or foresight could have prevented.

The English government, as we have seen, had originally cherished the flattering hope that Sebastopol might be taken by a *coup de main*, or, at all events, after a very short siege; and this illusion was shared by the English people generally, who day by day were anxiously looking for tidings of the capture of Sebastopol, and lending a ready ear to the reports of its fall erroneously or dishonestly raised. But it had now become evident that, if Sebastopol were to be taken at all, it would not be during this year, and that consequently the allied governments must choose between withdrawing their forces from the Crimea altogether, or keeping their fleets and armies as near as they could to the besieged town. They determined on adopting the latter course, which, indeed, was forced on them by

public opinion. It only remained, therefore, that they should do their best to render the condition of our troops as comfortable as circumstances would allow, and protect them as far as possible from a recurrence of the hardships and sufferings to which they had been exposed. To clothe, to shelter, to feed, the troops that remained; to take care that the sick and wounded received due care and skilful medical attendance; such were the chief cares and duties of the government at this moment, and more particularly of those members of it on whom the charge and responsibility of the war especially rested—the Duke of Newcastle and Mr. Sidney Herbert.

It is now time to turn from the contemplation of so much courage and so much suffering to the events that had been occurring in England, while the ranks of our brave troops were being rapidly thinned, by the sword and by disease, in the Crimean peninsular.

The parliamentary session of the year 1854 was opened by the Queen in person on the 31st of January. There were circumstances which gave to this customary solemnity more than usual interest and importance. In the first place, there was the expectation that some important announcement would be made in the Queen's speech with regard to the great war which was then impending, of which we have already narrated the commencing scenes, and the thought of which was at that moment uppermost in the minds of all men. Then there was a report which, though contradicted, was still industriously circulated, that Prince Albert had interfered unduly in the negotiations, and carried on a secret and improper correspondence with the emperor of Russia. It was expected that the prevalence of this report would cause some demonstrations to be made against the prince; and to prevent anything of the kind, the precaution had been taken—said to be unprecedented—of requiring the attendance of the whole of the Horse Guards. At the same time every available policeman was on duty along the line of the procession. It was also anticipated that the Turkish and

Russian ambassadors would appear in the procession, and that a tremendous popular demonstration of favour to the former and hostility to the latter would be made. These anticipations were only partially fulfilled. The speech from the throne did, of course, touch on the impending war; a few hisses were raised against Prince Albert at certain points in the line of procession, but they were at once drowned in a roar of loyal acclamations; the Turkish ambassador was in the procession, and was uproariously cheered; but the Russian ambassador wisely kept away. The royal speech intimated that an augmentation of the naval and military forces would be required to support the representations of the English government; that a bill for opening the coasting-trade of Great Britain to friendly nations would be introduced, as well as measures for 'the amendment of the laws relating to the representation of the commons in parliament.' This announcement naturally drew forth from those opposed to the changes thus foreshadowed strong expressions of opinion as to the inopportuneness of the introduction of such a bone of contention at a time when the nation seemed to be on the brink of a great war. These objections were met by Lord J. Russell, who, as might be expected, was the member of the administration who had taken the warmest interest in the question, and had, not without difficulty, obtained the consent of the cabinet to its being brought forward. He thus justified the course which he had persuaded his colleagues to adopt:

'I cannot think that there is any danger in discussing the question of reform during the excitement of a foreign war. The time that is really dangerous for such a discussion is the time of great popular excitement and dissension at home. It is said that there is no feeling on the subject; that there is a complete apathy about reform. If that really is the case, is it not the proper time to discuss questions of reform, lest in the course of the war there should be times of distress, when the people should become excited, and large meetings should be

assembled in every town, partly crying out for more wages and cheaper food, and partly crying out for an increase of political power? Supposing we should have the calamity of war, and with it the necessity for increasing the public burdens, is it not a fitting time to enlarge the privileges of the people when parliament is imposing fresh taxes, that in imposing them we may as far as possible impose them on those who have elected us?'

Lord J. Russell concluded his speech with an explanation of the constitutional position of Prince Albert as the consort of the Queen, of the part he took in the public affairs of the nation, and gave a distinct and emphatic denial to those charges of improper interference in the Eastern question which had been brought against the prince.

The reform bill to which Lord J. Russell referred in this speech was introduced and explained by him to the House of Commons on the 13th of February; and as it may be interesting to the reader to compare it with measures of a similar character that were subsequently brought forward, we give a very condensed abstract of its principal provisions:

A. Persons to whom votes were to be given both in counties and boroughs.

1. Persons in receipt of salaries from public or private employments of not less than 100*l.* per annum, payable quarterly or half-yearly.
2. Persons in receipt of 10*l.* per annum derived from government stock or bank or India stock.
3. Persons paying forty shillings per annum of income or assessed taxes.
4. Graduates of any university in the United Kingdom.
5. Persons who have for three years possessed a deposit of 50*l.* in a savings-bank.

B. Persons to whom votes were to be given in counties.

6. All occupiers rated at 10*l.* per annum residing elsewhere than in represented towns.

C. Persons to whom votes were to be given in boroughs.

7. All occupiers rated at 6*l.* who have been resident within the borough two years and a half.

Schedule A.

Boroughs having fewer than 300 electors or than 5000 inhabitants to be disfranchised.

Andover, returning 2; Arundel, 1; Ashburton, 1; Calne, 1; Dartmouth, 1; Evesham, 2; Harwich, 2; Honiton, 2: Knaresborough, 2; Lyme Regis, 1; Marlborough, 2; Midhurst, 1; Northallerton, 1; Reigate, 1; Richmond (Yorkshire), 2; Thetford, 2; Totnes, 2; Wells, 2; Wilton, 1. Total, 19 boroughs returning 29 members.

Schedule B.

Boroughs having fewer than 500 electors, or than 10,000 inhabitants, now returning two members, in future to return one member only,

Bodmin, Bridgenorth, Bridport, Buckingham, Chichester, Chippenham, Cirencester, Cockermouth, Devizes, Dorchester, Guildford, Hertford, Huntingdon, Leominster, Lewes, Ludlow, Lymington, Lichfield, Maldon, Malton, Marlow (Great), Newport (Isle of Wight), Peterborough, Poole, Ripon, Stamford, Tamworth, Tavistock, Tewkesbury, Tiverton, Weymouth, Windsor, Wycombe (Chipping). Total, thirty-three members.

Schedule C.

Additional members to counties. Counties and divisions of counties containing a population of more than 100,000 each, at present returning two members, for the future to return three members:

Bedford; Chester, Southern Division; Chester, Northern; Cornwall, Western; Cornwall, Eastern; Derby, Northern; Derby, Southern; Devon, Southern; Devon, Northern; Durham, Southern; Durham, Northern; Essex, Southern; Essex, Northern; Gloucester, Western; Kent, Western; Kent, Eastern; Lancaster, Northern; Lincoln, parts of Lindsay; Lincoln, parts of Kesterne and Holland; Middlesex; Monmouth; Norfolk, Western; Norfolk, Eastern; Stafford, Northern; Stafford, Southern; Somerset, Western; Somerset, Eastern; Salop, Northern: Southampton, Northern; Suffolk, Eastern; Suffolk, Western; Surrey, Eastern; Sussex, Eastern; Warwick, Northern; Worcester, Eastern; York, East Riding; York, North Riding. WALES: Glamorgan.

Divisions of counties to be subdivided, and each subdivision in future to return three members:

Lancashire, Southern Division; York, West Riding.

Schedule D.

Cities and boroughs to return for the future additional members. Cities and boroughs containing more than 100,000, at present returning two members, for the future to return three each:

Birmingham, Bristol (city), Bradford (Yorkshire), Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield, Southwark, Wolverhampton.

Boroughs now returning one member to return in future two members. Salford. Additional members, ten.

Schedule E.

Unrepresented places to return members in future. Towns containing 20,000 inhabitants to return in future one member each.

Birkenhead, Burnley, Staleybridge. Inns of Court to return in future two members; London University to return in future one member. Additional members six.

The City of London was to continue to return four members, but each elector was to have only three votes. This was the first step towards the representation of minorities, which has since been more fully developed.

Such was the measure which Lord J. Russell introduced and explained; but in spite of the able and ingenious reasoning by which he justified the introduction of such changes, at a time when the country was entering on a most arduous and doubtful struggle, the House of Commons soon showed that it was not convinced by his arguments, or at least was not prepared to accept his conclusions. Lord John found himself under the necessity of withdrawing his carefully elaborated measure with a mortification he was unable to conceal. In making the announcement, he was so deeply moved, that it was not without difficulty he could finish his speech; but he was in some degree repaid for the sacrifice he thus made, the propriety of which all parties in the House fully admitted, by the testimonies of respect for his character and consistency which were freely given by his opponents as well as by his friends, and by none more cordially or more eloquently than by Mr. Disraeli, who, while strongly condemning the measure, professed the highest respect for its author, whose character and career he declared to be the 'precious possession of the House of Commons.'

Mr. Gladstone brought forward his budget under circumstances strongly contrasting with those by which he was surrounded when he made his last financial statement. War had then been alluded to as a bare possibility; now it had to be dealt with as an almost inevitable certainty. However,

considering the circumstances in which he was placed, the position of the finance-minister was very satisfactory. He had estimated the revenue of the country for the year 1853—4, after all the reductions that had been effected, at 52,990,000*l.*; it actually reached 54,025,000*l.*; thus exceeding his estimate by more than a million. On the other hand, the expenditure had fallen short of his expectations by above a million; so that he had at his disposal upwards of two millions more than he had hoped for. Nothing could be more gratifying than the financial condition of the country at this moment, and it would have enabled Mr. Gladstone to make great progress in fiscal reform if the Crimean war had not effectually checked his farther advances, and arrested him in the midst of his brilliant career. If it was a source of deep mortification to Lord John Russell to be obliged to relinquish a measure of parliamentary reform on which he had bestowed much pains, it must have been no less mortifying to Mr. Gladstone to be compelled to abandon his plans of financial reform, and to increase that burden of taxation which he had so successfully laboured to alleviate. One thing, however, he wisely and courageously resolved to do: instead of devolving on posterity the chief share of the cost of this war, as had been done in the case of so many of those that had preceded it; instead of adding to the debt of the country more millions than he had taken from it,—he determined, as far as practicable, to raise within the year the funds that would be required to meet both the ordinary and extraordinary expenses of the year; and in order to effect this, he proposed to the House of Commons to double the income tax during the continuance of the war. For the present, however, he only asked the House to sanction the duplication of the tax for six months, reserving to himself the right of making a fresh appeal for a renewal of the increased tax if the war should be prolonged beyond that period. He also proposed to increase the duty on Irish spirits by 8*d.*, and on Scotch spirits by 1*s.* the gallon; to raise the malt-tax from

2*s.* 9*d.* to 4*s.* per bushel; and to postpone the reduction of the sugar duties. By these changes he expected to be able to raise 6,859,000*l.* in addition to the amount yielded by the increased income and property tax, to levy above 10,000,000*l.* more than in previous years, and to make the annual revenue of the country up to 66,746,000*l.*, which would exceed the anticipated expenditure of the year by more than 3,500,000*l.* These proposals were very favourably received both by the legislature and the country; and notwithstanding some criticisms of the plan by Mr. Disraeli, it was adopted in all its points. Nothing more fully proves the progress of the wealth of the nation and the buoyancy of its resources than the cheerfulness with which the burdens thus imposed were borne. Before the passing of the reform bill Lord Castlereagh bemoaned the existence of an ignorant impatience of taxation. Mr. Gladstone, on the contrary, might rejoice in an enlightened endurance of taxation.

It may perhaps be thought that a public dinner is an event which ought not to figure in a serious history; and as a general rule the opinion is correct. But when a public dinner has excited the interest and riveted the attention of a large portion of the nation; when English statesmen have made it the occasion of an appeal to large bodies of their fellow-countrymen; and when the appeal has elicited such a response as those who made it expected and desired, and that response has made itself heard throughout England and Europe—then the historian would be neglecting a portion of the task he had undertaken, if he were to pass it by without notice. Such a dinner was the one which was given to Sir Charles Napier at the Reform Club of London, a few days before his departure to take the command of the Baltic fleet. The banquet was presided over by Lord Palmerston; among the guests were Sir James Graham, the first lord of the Admiralty, Sir William Molesworth, the chief secretary for Ireland, and the Turkish minister. Lord Palmerston warmly eulogized the character and conduct of the French emperor. In proposing the health of the sultan, he

said, 'There never was a sovereign who was more the object of abominable injustice than the sultan is now; an injustice only to be equalled by that which is described in the old fable of the wolf and the lamb; but this time the wolf has made a great mistake; it is no lamb that he has to deal with.' He eulogized the sultan as a great reformer, engaged in carrying out important improvements in his dominion, and only prevented from making still greater improvements by a wise allowance for the inveterate prejudices and deep-rooted habits of his subjects. He warmly praised the firmness with which, notwithstanding the threats and demands of Russia and Austria, he had refused to give up the Hungarians who had taken refuge in his dominions, even before he was assured of the support of England and France. Sir Charles Napier, in returning thanks for the toast of his health, thus expressed himself: 'When I get to the Baltic, I shall have an opportunity of declaring war. And certainly if I have that opportunity, I hope it will end in a prosperous war; because I can safely say that this country never sent out such a splendid fleet as that which is about to go into the Baltic in a few days. My right hon. friend Sir James Graham deserves the greatest credit for having, after so long a peace, when we had no seamen or very few, been able to fit out so magnificent a fleet. Well, with that force—I do not say that it is equal to the force of Russia—but with the assistance of the screw we shall be able to attack a very large and a superior force.' Sir James Graham, in returning thanks after his health had been drank, spoke thus of the gallant admiral:

'He possesses my entire confidence, and I rejoice in having had the opportunity on this great occasion to commend him to the choice of my sovereign. The selection, I believe, is approved by the country; it is approved by the profession; and although the propelling power of the fleet may be changed, though naval tactics may be altered, as he goes forth the commander, not of a pressed body of men, but of volunteers in her Majesty's service—though all these old plans may be changed,

yet there is one thing that is unchanged—the gallantry and the power of command of my honourable friend. He does not go forth under the hypocritical pretence of conducting a religious war: but he goes forth to assert the independence of Europe—to resist, and I hope successfully to resist, that lawless spirit of aggression and aggrandizement which now threatens to disturb the general peace. My gallant friend says, that when he gets into the Baltic he will declare war. I, as first lord of the Admiralty, give him my free cousent to do so, I hope that war will be short. It may be sharp, but I trust that with the spirit and energy which has ever guided my gallant friend, it will be decisive.'

These speeches, circulated as they were by the journals, had the effect, which they no doubt were intended to have, of stimulating very strongly the war spirit that was already abroad in England. But they also offended and disgusted those who were trying to withstand the martial frenzy that was impelling the prime minister into a war which he regarded with horror and aversion. The subject was taken up in the House of Commons. Mr. Bright said on this occasion: 'I have read the proceedings of that banquet with pain and humiliation. The reckless levity displayed is, in my opinion, discreditable to the grave and responsible statesmen of a civilized and Christian nation.' The sentence stung Lord Palmerston to the quick. He arose to reply in evident anger, and he commenced in a manner which was intended to be insulting, and which certainly was very unparliamentary: 'Sir, the honourable and reverend gentleman.' These words produced one of those movements of dissatisfaction in the House which make a speaker feel that in its opinion he has been guilty of a violation of good taste and decorum; and Mr. Cobden appealed to the speaker to rebuke the expression, stigmatizing it as 'flippant, undeserved, and not justified by the rules of the House.' Lord Palmerston was then allowed to go on, but his temper had evidently not been improved by the manifestation of feeling that had been displayed.

'I will not quarrel,' he continued, 'about words; but as the honourable gentleman has been pleased to advert to the circumstance of my being chairman of the dinner to which allusion has been made, and as he has been kind enough to express an opinion as to my conduct on that occasion, I deem it right to inform the hon. gentleman that any opinion he may entertain, either of me personally or of my conduct, private or political, is to me a matter of the most perfect indifference. I am farther convinced that the opinion of this country with regard to me and to my conduct will be in no way whatever influenced by anything the hon. gentleman may say. I therefore treat the censure of the hon. gentleman with the utmost indifference and contempt.' This insolent attack provoked a strong explosion of indignation, mingled with some cries of approbation and a good deal of laughter. When the noise had a little subsided, Lord Palmerston asked, 'Is that parliamentary or not?' The question provoked a shout of laughter. 'If it is not,' said his lordship, 'I do not insist on the expression.' If Lord Palmerston thought to thrust aside comments and criticisms, which his opponent had an unquestionable right to make, he must soon have perceived that he had greatly miscalculated. The feelings of many members of the House, who differed widely and decidedly from Mr. Bright on the merits of this war, and on other political questions, were revolted by the insolence and injustice of the invectives that Lord Palmerston had uttered, and that astute minister was made to feel, in a very unmistakable way, that he had committed a great mistake, the repetition of which might seriously endanger his influence.

It must be remembered, that while all the warlike declamation, which we have read above, was being uttered, war was not yet formally declared, and that the emperor of Russia, against whom it was levelled, was still our ally. He was not, however, long permitted to retain that position. On the afternoon of the 22nd of March the formal declaration of war was made. The Lord Chancellor read a message from the Queen,

which, though its purport was already known, was listened to with breathless silence. It informed the House that negotiations with the emperor of Russia had terminated, and that her Majesty felt bound to afford active assistance to her ally the sultan against unprovoked aggression. In the discussion that took place on this message, Lord Aberdeen expressed the deep grief he felt in being obliged to enter on this sanguinary course, and declared that even now, when compelled to make war, he should carry it on with the utmost vigour only for the sake of securing a speedy peace.' And his whole career shows, that if he did not retain office under the circumstances in which he was placed, he was actuated in doing so by a deep sense of duty, and a hope that he might be instrumental in bringing about a speedy restoration of that peace which, in spite of his efforts to the contrary, he found himself compelled to interrupt. Six days after, a formal statement of the causes of the war was published in the *Gazette*. On the same day on which the Queen's message was sent to the House of Lords, a similar message was sent by the Emperor of the French to the senate and legislative assembly of that country, and received with enthusiastic acclamations.

The departure of the first division of the Baltic fleet, under the command of Sir Charles Napier, on the 11th of March, was an event which, even more than the departure of the land-forces, excited the interest and attention of the whole nation. We all know the historic pride with which Englishmen have in all ages been accustomed to regard what they fondly called 'the wooden walls of old England,' when as yet ironclads were not; and we can therefore understand the feelings with which the departure of the stateliest fleet that had ever gone forth to war from the chief naval station of the kingdom was regarded. Portsmouth was of course the centre towards which the thoughts of the whole nation were directed. During Friday and the whole of Saturday morning thousands on thousands of excursionists came pouring into the town from all parts of the

country. The Queen, who had visited the fleet on Friday, came again to witness its departure on Saturday. At half-past one the signal for weighing anchor was given from the admiral's ship, and promptly obeyed. The Royal George led the way. In ten minutes from the time when the signal was given, her anchor was raised and her sails set. She was quickly followed by the St. Jean d'Acre, the Tribune, Impérieuse, Blenheim, Amphion, Princess Royal, Edinburgh, Ajax, Arrogant, Leopard, Valorous, and Dragon. When all these were fairly started, the admiral's ship, the Duke of Wellington, the finest vessel in the English navy, got under weigh. The squadron comprised eight screw line-of-battle ships, four screw and four paddle ships of inferior size, making a total of sixteen war steamers. Of these, the Duke of Wellington and the Royal George were three-deckers. As at that time the use of steam had recently been introduced into the navies of the world, it was noticed with some pride that every one of these vessels was propelled by steam power. The Neptune, the Prince Regent, and the Boscawen remained behind to form the nucleus of a second division, which was intended to follow under the command of Rear-admiral Corry. Thus departed the first division of the great Baltic fleet, full of high hope, and carrying with it the good wishes and sanguine expectations of almost all who remained behind, and who had either witnessed the magnificent spectacle with their own eyes, or had it vividly exhibited to them in the letters of special correspondents and the pictorial representations of the *Illustrated London News*. The admiral himself felt that the national expectations had been so highly raised that it was impossible they should be realized, even by the utmost that he could hope to achieve; and therefore he did his best to moderate them.

Before commencing operations in the Baltic, the admiral signalled the following address to the fleet under his command: 'Lads, war is declared. We are to meet a bold and numerous enemy: should they offer us battle, you know how to dispose

of them. Should they remain in port, we must try to get at them. Success depends on the quickness and precision of your fire. Lads, sharpen your cutlasses, and the day is your own.' Sir J. Graham, fearing that the admiral might be led by his own ardour, and by a desire to satisfy the highly-raised expectations of the nation, into enterprises which might seriously endanger the safety of his fleet, wrote to him to counsel prudence; and after advising him to feel his way, and to make good his hold on the Gulf of Finland; he thus proceeded: 'When I say this, I by no means contemplate an attack either on Sveaborg or on Cronstadt. I have a great respect for stone walls, and have no fancy for running even screw line-of-battle ships against them. Because the public here may be impatient, you must not be rash; because they, at a distance from the danger, are foolhardy, you must not risk the loss of your fleet in an impossible enterprise.' He added much more to the same effect, expressing an opinion that Sveaborg and Cronstadt were impregnable. Eventually Bomarsund was taken, but nothing at all commensurate with the highly-raised hopes of the nation was effected, and the public disappointment was strongly expressed. Then ensued a recriminatory correspondence between the First Lord of the Admiralty and Sir Charles Napier, in which each tried to throw on the other the blame of the failure with which they were reproached. The fact was, that neither the one nor the other was really blameworthy. The nation had expected impossibilities, and was mortified because these expectations were disappointed; but both the First Lord of the Admiralty and Sir Charles had helped to raise, by their speeches at the Reform Club dinner, these impossible hopes, which they were now censured for not having realized. The avenging Nemesis of these speeches had at length overtaken those who made them, and destroyed the friendship and confidence which they had so warmly expressed.

While the war was being carried on, the British people were watchful and interested spectators of its chief events, and

especially of those transacted outside Sebastopol. In spite of the objections urged by military men of the old school against the presence of reporters at the seat of war, they were sent by the principal journals in great numbers, and gave such detailed accounts of what was passing as would not have been permitted to have been sent in any previous war. Men of great abilities and high character were chosen for this purpose by the principal journals, and they discharged the duty assigned to them with fearlessness and impartiality. They gave the fullest details, and criticized with much freedom the conduct both of the civil and military authorities under whose superintendence the expedition was placed; and there can be no doubt that the fear of their criticisms had a very salutary effect in quickening the diligence and increasing the care of those who were or might be the objects of them. While these correspondents did full justice to the skill and courage displayed in the field, they also described in the most graphic manner the horrid carnage of the battle-field and the sufferings of the sick and wounded. Nor did they hesitate to expose the mismanagement of those who had the care of the various departments of the army in the Crimea, as well as of those whose duty it was to forward supplies from home. These letters were perused in England with very various and mingled feelings. Some gloated over the scenes of 'glory' and carnage which were so vividly depicted by their writers. Others regarded with feelings of unmingled abhorrence and disgust the horrid details of the butchery of so many brave men on both sides. Some, moved by compassion for those who had fallen in the conflict, were anxious to provide for their families. Others were stimulated to alleviate the tortures of those who had been wounded, or who were suffering from some of the terrible diseases which the rigour of the Crimean winter, exposure, or the want of sufficient food and clothing, had produced. The Queen took the lead in giving effect to these feelings of her subjects. She issued a commission, directed to Prince Albert and a large

number of noblemen and gentlemen, authorizing them to raise a 'Patriotic Fund' for the relief of the orphans and widows of the soldiers, sailors, or marines who might fall in the war. The *Times*, which, by its correspondent at the seat of war, (Dr. Russell) as well as by numerous articles it had published on the subject, had been very mainly instrumental in drawing public attention to the condition of our sick and wounded soldiers in the Crimea, made an appeal on their behalf, which was responded to by a contribution amounting to 25,400*l.*, and a central association in aid of the wives and families of soldiers ordered on foreign service raised upwards of 100,000*l.* towards the objects for which it had been established. While the ministry and the great majority of the nation were endeavouring to alleviate the miseries which were the foreseen and inevitable consequences of the war in which they had embarked, there was still a small party which, having from the first protested against this war, now refused to contribute to the relief of sufferings which, if their counsels had been followed, would have been altogether avoided. Of their views Mr. Bright was the chief exponent. Being at that time member for Manchester, he was requested to take part in a meeting to be holden in that city on the 29th of October, for the purpose of raising money for the Patriotic Fund. In reply to this invitation, he wrote a letter, in which he thus stated his reasons for believing the war to be unnecessary, and for refusing to contribute to the removal of the evils which had resulted from it. 'My doctrine,' he wrote, 'would have been non-intervention in this case. The danger of the Russian power was a phantom; the necessity of permanently upholding the Mahometan rule in Europe an absurdity; our love for civilization, when we subject the Greeks and Christians to the Turks, is a sham; and our sacrifices for freedom, when working out the behests of the emperor of the French, and coaxing Austria to help us, are pitiful imposture. The evils of non-intervention were remote and vague, and could neither be weighed nor described in any

accurate terms.' This bold and plain-spoken avowal afterwards cost Mr. Bright his seat. The opinions he expressed were such as he had all along professed. If he ceased to represent Manchester, it was not because he had changed, but because his constituents would no longer tolerate those peace-principles which they knew that he held when they first elected him to be their representative.

Subsequently, a meeting of many who were opposed to war upon principle was called, to consider whether they should contribute to the Patriotic Fund. After long and earnest deliberation, they came to the conclusion that they would withhold their contributions; and their organ, the *Herald of Peace*, thus stated the grounds which had led them to feel that they ought to hold aloof from it altogether: 'It does not seem to us possible to take part in this movement without directly contributing to feed and further the system by which these orphans and widows have been created, and which, the more it is encouraged, will only add the more to the numbers of such sufferers day by day and year by year. For, in the first place, no one can have marked the tone of the meetings which have been held to promote this fund without perceiving that, with very few and rare exceptions, their whole tendency is to glorify the entire war-system, and to fan into a broader and hotter flame the sinister enthusiasm for the present war which already burns so fiercely among the people.' They who ventured to give expression to opinions so little in harmony with the spirit which almost universally prevailed, were loaded with all kinds of objurgatory epithets; were accused of being guilty of 'immorality,' of 'meanness,' of 'hypocrisy;' were reviled as 'pitiless Quakers,' were told that 'they might keep their dirty money,' and reproached with refusing to consider 'the hard case of the widow and the orphan.'

The continuance of the war rendered it necessary, in the opinion of the government, to assemble the legislature at a very unusual period. Tuesday, December 12th, was appointed for

its meeting, and it was opened by the sovereign in person. The day was fine; an immense multitude lined the roads along which the procession passed on its way to the palace of the legislature, and greeted the Queen with unbounded enthusiasm. In fact, the loyal excitement on this occasion was so great that it was difficult to keep it within the bounds of safety and prudence; and if precautions had not been taken beforehand, it is probable that some serious accidents would have occurred, through the inability of the police to prevent a general rush after the Queen's carriage. The royal speech was very brief. It announced that the two Houses had been called together at this unusual period in order that they might take such measures as might enable the Queen to carry on the great war in which the country was engaged with the utmost vigour and effect. It referred to the hearty and efficient cooperation which had been afforded by the brave troops of the emperor of the French, and to the alliances which had been concluded with the emperor of Austria and the United States of America. In the debates on the address no opposition was offered, but many complaints were uttered. Lord Derby attacked ministers on account of the tardiness and want of prescience they had displayed throughout all the proceedings that had led to the war, as well as during the war itself. He charged them with being always too late; too late with their fleets, too late in sending troops to Constantinople, too late in entering the Black Sea, too late in declaring the crossing of the Pruth to be a *casus belli*, too late in sending an army to Varna, too late in their preparations for the war, and, to crown all, too late in arriving in Sebastopol. He concluded by urging the necessity of prosecuting the war energetically, and stated his conviction that in doing so ministers would be sustained by the public opinion of the country.

To the attacks of Lord Derby, the Duke of Newcastle, who, as minister of war, was chiefly responsible for the neglects and delays with which the government was reproached, made the following reply:

'I will not attempt to make an out-and-out defence of all that has been done, nor will I deny that mistakes have been made at the commencement, which would be remedied now if the same things had to be done again. But I must remind your lordships that the first object in view was the protection of Constantinople. This being secured, other objects were desired, and efforts were made to accomplish them. With respect to the Baltic, it is true that Cronstadt is not taken, and that the Russian fleet is intact; but a great moral effect has been produced by the expedition. The trade of Russia has been destroyed, and its fleet cannot put to sea—a circumstance which cannot fail to be humiliating to the pride of a country like Russia. With regard to the Black-Sea expedition, the best defence of the government would be the production of the despatches which have passed between Lord Raglan and myself, if the present were a time when they could be produced without detriment to the service. The expedition to Sebastopol was not rashly undertaken. Lord Raglan had been instructed to make all necessary inquiries as to the strength of the place, and the force necessary for its capture. From the first the invasion of the Crimea was contemplated. The order for attacking Sebastopol was given from home, but not against the opinion of the generals. That order was issued on the 29th of June, seven days after the raising of the siege of Silistria.' After explaining the difficulties and delays that had occurred in the transport of troops on the part of our allies, he thus proceeded: 'We, too, made war under novel circumstances; our system of recruitment for both army and navy being entirely voluntary. It should be borne in mind too that recruiting was least successful at the beginning of a war; but the zeal and energy of the people were aroused when military success was retarded, and in a military point of view that was an inconvenience. The siege of Sebastopol commenced on the 17th of October. In common with eminent men in this country and in France, the government did certainly hope that the fortress would have fallen

sooner than it had done; but when they saw the siege was to be long, they sent out reinforcements—even using newly-recruited regiments for the purpose, in conformity with the pressing requests of Lord Raglan. Also it must be admitted that the government miscalculated as to the rapidity of the Russian reinforcements; they did not anticipate that an army could be moved so quickly from Odessa to Simpheropol (forty-two miles having on that occasion been accomplished by the Russians in one day). But we also have sent out reinforcements. Since June we have sent out 20,000 men; making up the whole army in the Crimea to 53,000 men; a force raised, it must be remembered, on a peace-establishment.'

The Duke then gave details of the quantity of ordnance and ammunition that had been sent out, which, as he stated, far exceeded what had been sent on any previous occasion to a British army. He referred to the unfortunate wreck of the Prince, which had caused the loss of a great part of the supply of winter clothing intended for the troops, and he dwelt on the prompt and vigorous measures that had been taken by the government to supply the deficiencies caused by that disaster, so that before authentic intelligence of the calamity arrived, a great portion of the goods were on their way to their destination. Criticisms similar to those which had been made in the upper House, were also made in the House of Commons, and received similar replies.

Meanwhile Sir C. Napier and his fleet had returned from the Baltic. The reception he met with on his return was very different from the enthusiastic greeting which had accompanied his departure. Nevertheless, he had probably effected all that was possible under the circumstances in which he was placed and with the means at his disposal. The results he had obtained were summed up by one whose style seemed to prove him to be a distinguished relative of the officer whose deeds he glorified. 'He has caused the thirty sail composing the powerful Russian fleet to shrink like rats into their holes; he has taken

Bomarsund, caused Hango to be blown up, interrupted the Russian commerce; and for six months has kept in a state of inaction certainly 80,000 or 90,000 good troops—viz., 20,000 at Helsingfors, 15,000 at Abo, and 40,000 at Cronstadt, besides smaller corps protecting Revel and other places. He has restored and enlarged the knowledge of the Finland Gulf to navigation; has ascertained what large vessels can do there, and what they cannot do: when they can act alone, when with troops, and when gunboats can be used with effect. He carried out an ill-manned and undisciplined fleet, and brought back unharmed a well-organized, well-disciplined one, with crews exercised in gunnery and seamanship—in fine, a fleet now really what it was falsely called when it started, that is to say, one of the most irresistible that ever floated on the ocean for all legitimate purposes of naval warfare.' These praises, though written by a partial hand, were not undeserved; and the country generally, notwithstanding its disappointment, did justice to the veteran commander, acknowledging that he had faithfully and ably done his duty, and achieved all that could prudently be attempted.

The war, if it produced no other good effect, had at least that of drawing closer the alliance between England and France. By the remembrance of common dangers and common sufferings; by the interchange of various international civilities and hospitalities, from the sovereign on the throne down to the meanest citizens, it caused a transient discontinuance of those jealous and hostile feelings which previous wars, and especially that which terminated in 1815, had engendered or embittered. It is true that with the return of peace there was to a certain extent a revival of the pre-existing ill-feeling, but its rancour was greatly diminished, and the mitigation of it that followed paved the way for closer relations between the two countries than had previously existed, and disposed their inhabitants to regard each other, not, as they had hitherto done, as natural enemies, but rather as natural allies. It must

be admitted that much of this change was attributable to the Emperor of the French, who laboured to perpetuate that good understanding which existed between the two nations, and whose efforts in this direction were eminently successful.

Meanwhile parliament, after sitting for eleven days, and after having accomplished in that brief period more business than had ever been dispatched in a similar period, adjourned for a month. Of the measures it had passed, was one brought forward by the government in accordance with former precedents, for the enlistment of foreign soldiers, as a sufficient number of recruits could not be obtained in Great Britain and its dependencies. But notwithstanding all that parliament did, complaints of neglect and maladministration waxed louder and louder, and on the 23rd of December the *Times*, in a leading article which produced a profound sensation throughout the country, complained bitterly that 'the noblest army ever sent from our shores has been sacrificed to the grossest mismanagement;' that 'incompetency, lethargy, aristocratic hauteur, official indifference, favour, routine, perverseness, and stupidity reign, revel, and riot in the camp before Sebastopol, in the harbour of Balaclava, in the hospitals of Scutari, and how much nearer home we do not venture to say. We say it with extremest reluctance, no one sees or hears anything of the commander-in-chief. Officers who landed on the 14th of September, and have been incessantly engaged in all the operations of the siege, are not even acquainted with the face of their commander.' These exposures of the state of things at the seat of war were accompanied by recommendations for the removal of the abuses thus severely and plainly denounced. 'Send out,' said the writer of the article, 'some man with competent administrative powers to the necessary basis of our operations, Constantinople; give him the command of the hospitals, that present so scandalous a contrast to the French hospitals; the command of the post-office, and of the transports waiting for orders; and give him also the ordering of such supplies for

the army as can be procured in the neighbourhood, and which the French have not obtained before us. Nobody has yet had the command of this important station who is fit for anything else than to be the figure-head of his own ship.' These statements, founded as they were on facts which could no longer be concealed, produced a profound sensation. Already Lord J. Russell had addressed strong remonstrances to the Earl of Aberdeen on the subject of that maladministration which the *Times* so bitterly denounced, and placed in so strong a light. In a long letter to the premier he had urged the necessity of having the war-minister in the House of Commons, and had insisted that he should be a man who, from his experience of military details, his inherent vigour of mind, and his weight with the House of Commons, might be expected to guide the great operations of the war with authority and success; and he recommended that Lord Palmerston, who combined all these qualifications, should be intrusted with the seals of the war-department. It would have been well for all parties concerned if these suggestions had been adopted; but the prime-minister refused to recommend the proposed change to the Queen, on the ground that it would be unfair to the Duke of Newcastle, against whom, as he said, no defect had been proved or incapacity alleged. It was unfortunate for Lord J. Russell that, in his anxiety to avoid hurting the feelings of his colleague, he urged that the minister of war should be in the House of Commons; and thus he laid himself open to a charge of glaring inconsistency when he soon after accepted office in Lord Palmerston's administration, of which Lord Panmure, a peer, was the war-minister. But though Lord J. Russell failed in his attempt to effect the changes he proposed, the vigorous denunciation of the *Times* produced an effect on the public mind which no minister could disregard; and before the year closed there was an irresistible demand that something should be done to put the administration of the war on a more satisfactory footing. Accordingly, when parliament reassembled on the 25th of

January, 1855, Mr. Roebuck gave notice of his intention to move for a select committee 'to inquire into the condition of our army before Sebastopol, and into the conduct of those departments of the government whose duty it has been to minister to the wants of that army.' Lord J. Russell at once wrote to Lord Aberdeen, stating that he did not see how Mr. Roebuck's motion was to be resisted, but that, as it involved a censure on the war-department, he considered that the only course open to him was to tender his resignation, which of course was accepted. The retirement of the leader of the House of Commons at this crisis paralyzed the resistance which the government might otherwise have offered to Mr. Roebuck's motion, and, after a debate of two nights, the division showed the following numbers:—

For Mr. Roebuck's motion	305
Against	148
Majority against ministers	157

Never perhaps had a government been more decisively defeated. When the numbers were announced, the house seemed to be surprised and almost stunned by its own act. There was no cheering; but for a few moments a dead silence, followed by a burst of derisive laughter. Ministers of course resigned.

The majority that voted in favour of Mr. Roebuck's resolution must have foreseen that the chief result of its success would be to displace the ministry at a very critical moment, and to bring about changes calculated to increase the disorder that already prevailed in the war-administration. Nevertheless, it cannot be denied that both parliament and the country had reason to be greatly dissatisfied with the state of destitution in which the army generally, and especially the sick and wounded, had been left. Whether it arose from maladministration, faults in the system, or from accidental circumstances

which no system and no minister could altogether control, the fact could not be denied, that the administration of our army contrasted most unfavourably in every respect with that of our French allies. It was vain to plead that it could not have been anticipated that our army would have to pass the winter in the Crimea. The French authorities were equally taken by surprise, but they had been found fully equal to the emergency. It had long been said that our parliamentary system was on its trial; and it certainly seemed at this moment as if it was going to break down and prove itself to be altogether a failure, when the nation was engaged in such a serious war as was now being carried on. Could a general surrounded by newspaper-correspondents who pried into all his proceedings, described all his movements, gave the enemy, to a certain extent, an insight into all his plans; a general who was criticised by correspondents of journals at the seat of war, and by writers in journals at home; liable to have all his proceedings openly discussed in an assembly in which the strongest party-feeling prevailed, and withheld by considerations of duty from offering any defence or explanation; could such a general, it was asked, cope on equal terms with an absolute monarch of almost boundless resources, responsible to no one, and able to wrap his movements and intentions in the most absolute concealment? It was no doubt true that the extraordinary bravery and resolution of our troops had enabled them repeatedly to repel the attacks of greatly superior numbers; but this result seemed to be due to their courage rather than to the skill with which they had been led, and certainly was still less due to those by whom the administration of the war had been so egregiously mismanaged; and now the crisis had at last arrived, which was finally to determine whether liberty and publicity could prove itself a match in war as well as in peace for despotism and secrecy. It could not be denied that during the long peace the wheels and springs of our military organization had become rusty, and worked slowly and laboriously; and it remained to

be seen whether they could now be made to work, under the system which the great Reform Bill had inaugurated, as efficiently as they had done in the old times, and could even be improved, so as to prove equal and even superior to the machinery of a despotic government.

The man whose reputation was most compromised by the mismanagement of which we have spoken was the Duke of Newcastle. He was most directly responsible for the maladministration that had been so much complained of; and even some of his colleagues were disposed to condemn him. He was accused of indolence, indifference, and incapacity. Against the two first of these charges he defended himself with spirit and success; but it may be true that a man might have been found who would have carried on the war with greater vigour, and have taken care to have the army better provided with all kinds of necessaries. Yet he certainly was not an incapable man. He had been looked to by that small but able band of statesmen who went by the name of Peelites as their future leader. Though by no means deficient in administrative ability, he was a legislator rather than an administrator. But his administrative defects were to a great extent supplied by the zeal and diligence of his colleague, Mr. Sidney Herbert, an admirable administrator, and one who laboured most diligently with him. On the whole, when we look dispassionately back on the events of that critical time, it would appear that the fault lay rather with the system and the circumstances than with the man. His successor, Lord Panmure, was certainly more fortunate, but the Duke of Newcastle resigned at the moment when the difficulties with which he had been obliged to contend were to a considerable extent overcome, and—in the opinion of some of his colleagues—would, if he had remained in office, have discharged his duties with advantage to the country. Lord J. Russell and Lord Derby, each in turn endeavoured to form an administration, but both of them failed, and were obliged to relinquish the attempt. The task was then undertaken by Lord Palmerston,

and on the 6th of February Lord Granville announced to the House of Lords that a new ministry had been formed. It contained most of the members of the old administration. The members of the new cabinet were:

First Lord of the Treasury	Viscount Palmerston.
Lord Chancellor...	Lord Cranworth.
Lord President of Council	Earl Granville.
Lord Privy Seal	Duke of Argyle.
Chancellor of the Exchequer	Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone.
Home Secretary...	Sir G. Grey.
Foreign Secretary	Earl of Clarendon.
Colonial Secretary	Right Hon. Sidney Herbert.
Secretary at War	Lord Panmure.
Board of Control	Sir C. Wood.
Indian Secretary	Right Hon. E. Cardwell.
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster	Earl of Harrowby.
Postmaster-general	Viscount Canning.
First Lord of the Admiralty	Sir James Graham.
Lord Lieutenant of Ireland	Earl of Carlisle.
Chief Secretary for Ireland	Right Hon. E. Horsman.
Woods and Forests	Sir B. Hall.

It will be seen by an inspection of this list that the chief change that had been effected was the substitution of Viscount Palmerston for the Earl of Aberdeen at the head of the government, and the replacement of the Duke of Newcastle in the office of secretary at war by Lord Panmure. These two names indicated great vigour in the administration of the army, and in the general prosecution of the war. Lord Panmure, better known as Mr. Fox Maule, had already filled the office of minister of war during the six years of Lord J. Russell's administration, and had in that situation displayed a perfect mastery of the principles which should regulate an army, as well as of all the details of its administration.

But there was much in the management of the army that no ability, however great, could at once change. The evil was not only in the system, but also in the men that the system had produced. The system might be changed, though not without

great difficulty; but the men could not be; it required a new generation to grow up under a new system before the inveterate evils which had been brought to light by this war could be wholly eradicated. And so the outcry that had been raised gradually merged into a general demand for army reform, culminating in a motion by Mr. Layard for competitive examinations, which was opposed and got rid of by the premier.

It would have been better for the reputation and the peace of mind of Lord Aberdeen if he had retired sooner, as he would have done if he had felt himself at liberty to follow his own inclinations. Dragged step by step into a war which he abhorred, he naturally did not throw into the prosecution of it all the vigour and energy with which, if once declared, it should be carried on. Lord Palmerston, on the other hand, had all along been the head of the war party in the country. By means of his own speeches, and still more through journals over which he possessed more or less control, he had strongly stimulated the war-spirit. He therefore, beyond any other man, possessed the confidence of the war-party, which, at the moment, constituted the overwhelming majority of the nation, and was therefore the man best adapted to carry the contest, of which he may be regarded as the chief author, to a successful termination.

There have been in this country two kinds of prime-ministers. Some have been statesmen of strong and decided political convictions, who have succeeded to a great extent in impressing their opinions on their colleagues and on the country, and in proposing and carrying measures which have exercised a powerful influence on the progress of legislation and the development of events. The others have been men of refined manners and good nature—agreeable rather than great—who have made things pleasant with the sovereign, with their colleagues, and the legislature, and by their urbanity, hospitality, good fellowship, and good sense, have kept together administrations which otherwise would have fallen to pieces. To the former of these classes belonged Earl Grey, Sir R. Peel, Lord J. Russell, Lord

Derby, and Mr. Disraeli; while Lord Melbourne was the very incarnation and *beau idéal* of the latter. Lord Palmerston partook of the nature of both. He was not altogether destitute of statesmanlike ability and statesmanlike earnestness, especially on questions of foreign policy; but it was not so much to these qualities that he owed his long enjoyment of power, as to his *bonhomie*, his plausibility, his good nature, his strong common sense, his affability, his tact, his skill, the efforts he made to conciliate the principal journalists, and the manner in which he succeeded in obtaining their support or disarming their opposition. If there ever was a subject on which he felt strongly, it was that which was now being decided by that appeal to arms of which he was the chief instigator.

The first question with which the reconstituted ministry found itself compelled to deal was that which had caused the resignation of Lord Aberdeen. Three of its ablest and most distinguished members—Sir J. Graham, Mr. Gladstone, and Mr. Sidney Herbert—had offered a strenuous opposition to the appointment of Mr. Roebuck's committee, and their objections to it were still strong and decided. Lord Palmerston proposed the adoption of a middle course. He felt that a very large majority, both of the legislature and the country, were so bent on an investigation, that it would be useless to oppose it; but he hoped to save the honour of the ministry by substituting another committee selected by the government, whose names he thought would inspire confidence in their decisions, for that which Mr. Roebuck had proposed. Mr. Roebuck accepted the altered list; but the three gentlemen who had originally deprecated the inquiry were not satisfied with this arrangement, and gave in their resignation. Mr. Bright took advantage of the discussion which these changes produced to make an earnest appeal to the prime minister. 'The angel of death,' he exclaimed, 'has been abroad through the land; you may almost hear the very beating of his wings.'

Sir James Graham was succeeded by Sir C. Wood, Mr. Glad-

stone by Sir Cornewall Lewis, and Mr. Sidney Herbert by Lord J. Russell, who at the moment of his appointment was on his way to Vienna, for the purpose of assisting in negotiations which it was hoped might bring about the termination of the war. Thus almost before the new ministry was installed it underwent a most important change. Lord Aberdeen and the Duke of Newcastle had now been followed into retirement by the rest of the Peelites. The coalition ministry, or the ministry of all the talents, as it was derisively but not incorrectly termed, was now at an end, and a purely Whig ministry was once more at the head of affairs. Other changes equally important though less fundamental were made. Lord Panmure combined in his own person the hitherto separated functions of secretary *at* war and secretary *for* war. The control of the military discipline of the army was transferred to the commander-in-chief, and the new first lord of the Admiralty was charged with the duty of organizing a special board to superintend the transport-service. A commission, at the head of which were Colonel Tulloch and Sir J. M'Neill, both of whom had taken a very active and conspicuous part in exciting the anti-Russian feeling in this country, was dispatched to the Crimea to inquire on the spot into the administration of the commissariat department and of other supplies, respecting which great complaints had been made. Other commissions were at the same time sent out to examine into the sanitary condition of the hospitals, barracks, and the camp generally. A 'chief of the staff' was also appointed to relieve Lord Raglan from a multitude of lesser duties which diverted his attention from the more important functions which belonged to him as commander-in-chief of the British army.

In the beginning of March two events were announced which it was hoped would tend to bring the Crimean war to an honourable and satisfactory termination. The first of these was the tidings of the commencement of the conferences at Vienna, to which, as has already been mentioned, Lord J. Russell had been sent. The other was the announcement of the death of

the Emperor of Russia. The latter intelligence produced a profound sensation throughout the country. It was creditable to the right feeling of the nation that the news of the death of England's great adversary was received without any manifestation of public exultation. The intelligence was quite unexpected. The czar had indeed for some time manifested symptoms of declining health, which were observable enough to those about his person, though the fact was not allowed to transpire. A slight cold, by reckless exposure, had been aggravated into an influenza, which probably would speedily have been cured by ordinary precautions; but the emperor continued to pass his troops in review in the open air, and to visit the hospitals and barracks containing the sick and wounded soldiers. He was not altogether unaware of the risk he was running; and though he would not desist from the discharge of what he deemed to be a sacred duty, he was in other respects careful of his health, and readily followed the directions of his medical advisers. But with regard to the exposure of his person he was inexorable. To the remonstrances of his friends and family he replied by saying that he had something else to do besides taking care of his health; and when his physician implored him not to expose himself to the cold on parade at a time when the thermometer stood at 12° below zero, he replied, 'My dear doctor, you have done your duty; now I will go and do mine.' He called for his cloak, and proceeded to the parade, at which he remained above an hour. This occurred on the 27th of February: on the 2nd of March he expired. As often happens in such cases, stories of foul play were rife, and it was asserted that poison had been administered to him; but the circumstances just mentioned show how little need there was to resort to such suppositions in order to account for his death.

It was hoped that this event would have a very favourable effect on the negotiations, which had just commenced at the time when it occurred; for it was generally believed that the eldest son of the late emperor, by whom, of course, he was suc-

ceeded, was a man of liberal and enlightened views, pacific intentions, and anxious to commence his reign under peaceful auspices. It was asserted too, and probably with truth, that his father before his death had admitted that he had been guilty of a great error in entering into the war, and had advised that peace should be made with the Western powers as speedily as possible. But the tone of the new czar's first manifesto was not calculated to strengthen these pleasing anticipations. It announced that he intended to carry out the traditional policy of the family to which he belonged, and it breathed throughout a warlike spirit. It was hoped, however, that these expressions were dictated by respect for the memory of his father, and by the necessity of employing firm and resolute language in view of the conferences which were being held at Vienna.

Another event which improved the prospect of peace was the adhesion of Sardinia to the offensive and defensive alliance between England and France. Its declaration of war against Russia was published two days after the death of Nicholas. The knowledge that it was about to take place violently enraged him, and probably the feeling it excited in him accelerated his death.

Amid the hopes and fears, the triumphs and the sufferings of the war, the English people were beginning to feel its effects in the shape of scarcity of food. Complaints among the labouring classes waxed louder and louder, especially in the manufacturing districts. The opponents of the war naturally pointed to this as one of its necessary consequences, and as affording a strong argument for bringing it to a speedy conclusion. On the other hand, the advocates of the war, though forced to admit that there was a scarcity, denied that it was nearly as great as was alleged, and imputed it not so much to the war as to deficient harvests, particularly that of 1853. And it was not easy to disprove their assertions, because, though the quantity of various kinds of goods, including corn, imported into England was very accurately ascertained, no serious attempt had

ever been made to calculate the quantity of agricultural produce grown in our own island. One fact was indisputable, and that was, that the country against which we were engaged in waging war was the one from which our largest supplies would otherwise have been drawn.

The system of promotion in the army by purchase attracted at this time so much attention and condemnation, that in all probability, if the war had lasted much longer, the reform carried out in 1871 would have been effected in 1856. But if public opinion, shocked by instances of incapacity and misconduct on the part of men holding high commands, was strongly opposed to the continuance of the system, the feeling of those who were in authority in the army was no less hostile to any change in this respect, and the government had their hands too full to be able at the moment to take up an improvement which was sure to give rise to long discussion and to encounter vigorous opposition. The consequence was, that the demand for these changes was gradually transferred into a more general demand for administrative reform, culminating in a bill for the opening of civil service to competitive examination, which was resisted by Lord Palmerston, rejected by a large majority, and so got rid of for the present.

Mr. Roebuck's committee, in spite of all the predictions that had been uttered to the contrary, continued its sittings, always attended by a large number of its members. The sustained interest taken by the public in the inquiry was shown by the fact that the room in which it sat was beset, long before the commencement of the proceedings, by a crowd seeking admission, of whom only a small fraction could be accommodated in the space allotted to the public. Numerous witnesses were examined, among whom were the Duke of Cambridge, the Earl of Cardigan, Mr. Macdonald the almoner of the *Times* newspaper, and Mr. Stafford. All told the same tale of incapacity, carelessness, and maladministration; all confirmed to the fullest extent the statements which, published in the *Times* at the close of the

preceding year, had produced so profound a sensation, and caused the dissolution of the Aberdeen ministry. The Duke of Cambridge stated in his evidence, that while a cabinet minister was assuring the House of Commons that the number of men fit for duty amounted to thirty thousand, the real number was only twelve thousand; that the army was short of medical attendance, short of food, short of clothing, ill supplied with everything that it needed. On the 16th of June the committee presented its report, which, after giving an account of the state of the army and of the departments by which it was controlled, concluded with these words:

'Your committee report that the suffering of the army resulted mainly from the circumstances under which the expedition to the Crimea was undertaken and executed. The administration which ordered that expedition had no adequate information as to the amount of forces in the Crimea. They were not acquainted with the strength of the fortresses to be attacked, or with the resources of the country to be invaded. They hoped and expected the expedition to be immediately successful, and, as they did not foresee the probability of a protracted struggle, they made no provision for a winter campaign. The patience and fortitude of the army demand the admiration and gratitude of the nation on whose behalf they have fought, bled, and suffered. Their heroic valour and equally heroic patience under sufferings and privations have given them claims on the country which will doubtless be gratefully acknowledged. Your committee will now close their report with a hope that every British army may in future display the valour which this noble army has displayed, and that none may hereafter be exposed to such sufferings as have been recorded in these pages.'

On the 22nd of the month in which the report was made, Mr. Roebuck gave notice of the following motion: 'That this House, deeply lamenting the sufferings of our army during the late winter campaign in the Crimea, and coinciding with the resolution of their committee, that the conduct of the adminis-

tration was the first and chief cause of those misfortunes, hereby visits with its severe reprehension every member of the cabinet whose counsels led to such disastrous results.' This resolution was discussed on the 17th and 18th of July, and was got rid of by the usual expedient of moving and carrying the previous question. This extinguished an inquiry which, if it did not justify the forebodings which led Sir J. Graham and Mr. Gladstone to retire from the government, effected little more than to confirm the accuracy of the statements of the *Times* and the other principal journals which had sent correspondents to the seat of war.

On the 16th of April the emperor and empress of the French paid a visit to the Queen, to which the events that were now going on imparted a more than ordinary significance and importance. They were received throughout their progress from the pier at Dover to the castle of Windsor with the most enthusiastic applauses, but especially in the streets of the metropolis through which they passed. We will leave to the imagination of the reader the presentation of addresses, the review in the great park, the investiture of the order of the Garter, the visit to the Guildhall, the city addresses and the replies given to them, the visit to the Italian Opera and the Crystal Palace, the grand state-banquet and grand ball at Windsor Castle, the glory of the illuminations which were exhibited in honour of the illustrious visitors: suffice it to say, that everywhere they received the most cordial greeting, and were welcomed with the wildest enthusiasm. The visit had the effect it was intended to have, of cementing the alliance and good feeling which existed between two nations, whose union is of the utmost advantage, not only to themselves, but to the whole world. It afforded a guarantee that the war would be vigorously prosecuted, and gave to the people of each country a gage and security that the other would carry it forward to the best of its ability. It also furnished an additional evidence of the desire of the emperor to cultivate and

consolidate the English alliance. His popularity in this country was increased by the news of an attempt that had been made to assassinate him soon after his return into France.

The annual financial statement of the new chancellor of the exchequer, Sir Cornewall Lewis, showed the enormous cost of the struggle in which this country was now engaged. The income of the country reached what was then regarded as the enormous amount of 63,339,000*l.*, but the war had caused an excess of expenditure above that sum of no less than 20,000,000*l.* Under these circumstances, it became impossible to adhere to Mr. Gladstone's plan of raising within each year the amount required to meet the expenditure of that year; and it was proposed by the chancellor of the exchequer, and readily agreed to by the house, that the deficiency should be supplied by additional taxation and by a loan of 16,000,000*l.*, which Sir C. Lewis proposed to pay off at the rate of a million per annum; a part of his plan which many financial authorities denounced as delusive and impracticable. His proposals were, nevertheless, adopted with unprecedented readiness. Never did any House of Commons show greater alacrity in imposing fresh burdens on the people. The legislature and the nation were ready to make any sacrifice of money in order to bring the war to a speedy and successful termination. The whole of the loan was at once taken up by the Rothschilds. Meanwhile Lord J. Russell had returned from the Vienna conference, the negotiations having failed for the present. It was announced, however, that they were not absolutely closed.

On the 24th of May Mr. Disraeli brought forward a motion condemning the ambiguous language used by the government in reference to the continuance of the war. In opposing this motion, Lord J. Russell adopted a tone so warlike, he so strongly condemned the proposals that had been made at Vienna, that all his hearers imagined that the negotiations there had been broken off with his entire approval; indeed, Mr. Roebuck afterwards declared that, having previously intended to vote against

the government, he had been induced by this speech to support it. It therefore created no small astonishment when the Austrian plenipotentiary, Count Buol, alleged that Lord J. Russell had approved the very proposals which in his speech on Mr. Disraeli's motion he had so strongly condemned. The consequence was, that on Friday, June 6th, Mr. M. Gibson questioned Lord J. Russell on the subject, and succeeded in eliciting from him the admission that he had been of opinion that the terms proposed at the conference, and to which Russia was willing to accede, were such as would have afforded the basis of a satisfactory peace; but that, not being authorized to agree to them, he had rejected them against his own judgment, but that he had subsequently come over to the opinion entertained respecting them by the rest of his colleagues, that they were inadmissible, and had expressed that opinion in his speech on Mr. Disraeli's motion. This explanation, however, was received with great dissatisfaction both by the House and by the country. There was a strong feeling against having any one in the ministry who was half-hearted with regard to the war. It was thought that the administrative failures which had produced so profound and so painful an impression, had to a great extent arisen from the war being conducted by men who secretly abhorred it, and therefore did not prosecute it with vigour. The revelations that had been made strengthened the suspicion that there were still men in the Cabinet who were more anxious to conclude a peace than to carry on the war with the thoroughness that the nation demanded. There was therefore a very strong determination in and out of Parliament either to get rid of the ministry, or to drive Lord John Russell out of the ministry. The conservatives determined to take advantage of this feeling, and Sir E. B. Lytton gave notice of the following motion: 'That the conduct of Lord J. Russell at the recent negotiations at Vienna has in the opinion of the House shaken the confidence of the country in those to whom its affairs are intrusted.' Several subordinate members of the

administration declared that they were determined to vote in favour of the motion, which in all probability would have been carried. Lord Palmerston, on the other hand, chivalrously assured Lord J. Russell of his readiness to stand or fall with him; but Lord J. Russell prevented this consummation by withdrawing from the ministry before the motion was brought forward.

While the struggle was still intensely exciting the legislature and the country, Prince Albert rightly judged that the time had arrived when it had become expedient that, casting aside for the moment that reserve and reticence in speaking of public affairs which his position as consort of the Queen imposed on him, he should remonstrate publicly with the legislature and the people on the danger to which the country was being exposed by the unreasonable conduct pursued towards the government at this very critical moment. He therefore took the opportunity of the annual Trinity-House dinner on the 9th of June to make a brief but statesmanlike appeal to the forbearance and patriotism of the nation, which admirably exhibited the state of feeling that existed, and the embarrassment and difficulty it caused to those who were charged with the administration of the country. In proposing the health of her Majesty's ministers he said: 'If there ever was a time at which her Majesty's government, by whomsoever conducted, required the support—ay, not the support alone, but the confidence, goodwill, and sympathy—of their fellow-countrymen, it is surely the present. It is not the way to success in war to support it, however ardently and enthusiastically, and at the same time to tie down and weaken the hands of those who have to conduct it. We are engaged with a mighty enemy, who is using against us all those wonderful powers which have sprung up under the generating influence of our liberty and our civilization. You find him with all that force which unity of purpose and action, impenetrable secrecy, and uncontrolled despotic power have given; while we have met him under a

state of things intended for peace, and for the promotion of that very civilization, the offspring of public discussion, of the friction of parties, and of the popular control over the government and the state. The Queen has no power to levy troops, nor has she any at her command but such as offer their voluntary services. Her government can take no measure for the prosecution of the war which it has not before had to explain to parliament. Her armies and fleets can make no movements, nor even prepare for any, without their being publicly announced in the papers. No mistake, however trifling, can occur, no want or weakness exist, which is not at once denounced, and even sometimes exaggerated, with a kind of morbid satisfaction. The Queen's ambassador can enter into no negotiations without the government having to defend him, by laying bare all the arguments which that negotiator, in order to be successful, ought to be able to shut up in the innermost recesses of his heart. Nay, at the most critical position, when war and diplomatic relations may be at their height, an adverse vote in parliament may in a moment deprive the Queen of the whole of her confidential servants. Gentlemen, our constitutional government is undergoing a heavy trial, and we shall not get successfully through it, unless the country will grant its confidence—its patriotic, intelligent, and self-denying confidence—to her Majesty's government.'

This appeal was not made altogether in vain. After Lord John Russell's resignation the government was treated by parliament, the press, and the people, with more consideration than had hitherto been displayed, showing that the wise remonstrances of the Prince had sunk into men's minds, and to a certain extent produced their intended effect. But this did not save their author from cruelly unjust imputations of sympathy towards Russia, at the very time when he was giving the people of this country wise counsels, and indicating the most effectual means of coping with that power.

We must now turn aside from the war, and from the feeling

that it excited in this country, to other events of a much less important character, but which nevertheless for the moment engaged the attention of the English people. In the course of the session, Lord R. Grosvenor had introduced a bill into the House of Commons having for its object the suppression of Sunday trading. The measure was framed in a manner which was calculated to call forth the indignant opposition of the classes with whose amusements, recreations, or profits it proposed to interfere. It was one of those one-sided pieces of legislation which create a strong feeling of injustice in those who are the victims of it. Accordingly the plan called forth a kind of opposition which its proposer had not anticipated. On Sunday, the 24th of June, the persons who felt themselves aggrieved by the proposed measure displayed their feelings in a manner not a little disagreeable and even alarming to those who were unfortunate enough to be exposed to the manifestation of them. On that day Hyde-park presented a singular spectacle. Multitudes of the lower classes beset the various drives, and received every equestrian or carriage that appeared in the park with terrific howls and outcries, which in many instances frightened the horses, and placed the lives of those who were conveyed by them in considerable jeopardy. The crowd afterwards proceeded to Belgrave-square, Wilton-street, Grosvenor-square; doing much damage before a sufficient force of police could be collected. Nor was the mischief confined to these aristocratic localities; for in Hampstead-road and Tottenham-court-road much violence was also committed. The mob mustered again on the following Sunday in still greater force; but the police were better prepared to meet them. The scene that occurred was thus described in the *Times*:

'Carriages were admitted to the drive; and when the hooting began, the police rushed out from their ambuscades, and made unsparing use of their truncheons on every person within their reach. So vigorous was their onset, that the people were driven about in all directions, the constables pursuing and hit-

ting away right and left. By a very clever manœuvre, for which the very highest credit is due to the gallant constable in command at that particular point, a portion of the crowd was driven into the Serpentine. To avoid the truncheons, some of the baffled foe, as is reported to us, absolutely took to the water, and endeavoured by swimming to gain the opposite bank. But no resource is unknown to British valour. The police had boats at their service, and the fierce creatures were brought back in triumph to the shore. Need we say that the police were victorious in this hotly-contested affair ?'

Lord R. Grosvenor was not the man to ride the storm he had raised. He withdrew his foolish bill, though by doing so he did not prevent another riot in the park on the following Sunday. The conduct of the police in regard to these disturbances was much complained of, and was the subject of reiterated discussion in the House of Commons, ending in the appointment of a commission of inquiry. In the course of the debates on these disturbances, Mr. Dundas thus gave vent to his mortification at the withdrawal of Lord R. Grosvenor's bill:

'I never saw greater forbearance or moderation exercised on any occasion than was exercised on Sunday last by the police. The mob consisted chiefly of boys and young men under twenty; and fancy their leaning over the iron rails, and screeching at every carriage which went past, and then showing intense delight when they frightened a spirited horse, and endangered the lives of those in the carriage! I saw the police endeavour to drive back this *canaille* from the rails; and they did so with the greatest moderation. No doubt with a few of them force might have been used; but these rascally boys ought, I believe, to have been more severely dealt with. We all know how very small a blow will bring blood, and how very little blood will make a great show. I regret extremely that the demonstration of last Sunday induced the noble lord who introduced the bill to withdraw it. I hardly think it was very dignified on the part of the House to yield to that popular clamour. So we are

threatened with another disturbance next Sunday, and it is said men will come armed to oppose the police. I hope the honourable gentleman the Secretary of State for the Home Office will take the strongest measures to prevent such a collision. Prevention is at all times better than cure; and I would remind the right honourable baronet that nothing will frighten a mob more than the crash on the pavement of the trail of a six-pounder.' These last words called forth loud protests, and they were subsequently withdrawn.

On the 29th of June a rumour of the death of Lord Raglan was current in London, but was officially contradicted in the upper House by Lord Panmure, and in the lower by Lord Palmerston, both of whom stated that the government had received no intimation of the decease, nor even of the serious illness, of the British commander. The report, however, proved to be well founded; for the next accounts that were received conveyed the intelligence that a sudden and unfavourable change in his symptoms had taken place on the afternoon of the 28th, and that he had expired in the evening.

On the 14th of August parliament was prorogued by commission. The message delivered on this occasion dwelt with great complacency on the French alliance, to which it thus warmly referred: 'You will share her Majesty's satisfaction at finding that the progress of events has tended to cement more firmly that union which has so happily been established between our government and that of our ally the Emperor of the French, and her Majesty trusts that the alliance founded on a sense of the general interest of Europe, consolidated by good faith, will long survive the events which have given rise to it, and will contribute to the permanent well-being and prosperity of the two great nations which it has linked together in the bonds of honourable friendship.' The results of this session were small indeed. The public attention was engrossed by the war, and the one thing the people demanded of their rulers was that it should be vigorously and successfully prosecuted. Lord Pal-

merston was not the man to quarrel with this state of public feeling, or to force on changes which were not demanded; accordingly, little important legislation was attempted, and less accomplished. However, a session of such long duration could not be altogether unfruitful, and we may mention among the measures which it produced, a metropolitan-improvement act, a limited-liability act, the abolition of the stamp-duty on newspapers, and a beer bill, intended as a concession to the feeling that had found expression in the Hyde-park riots.

Four days after the prorogation the Queen and Prince Albert drew still closer the cordial alliance between the two kingdoms and the intimacy between the two courts by a return visit to the Emperor and Empress of the French, during which the hospitalities shown to the French ruler were reciprocated by him; and which, to borrow the language of the official statement, was highly satisfactory 'both on personal and political grounds.'

We must now return to the military and naval operations that were being carried on in the two principal theatres of war, the Baltic and the Black Sea. And first with regard to the Baltic. We have already seen the disappointment of the hopes that had been raised by the boastful talk of the Reform dinner, and the formidable preparations intrusted to Sir Charles Napier. This year the public expectations were less highly raised, and were therefore less disappointed. A fleet, larger and better appointed than that of the preceding year, sailed under the command of Rear-admiral Dundas. Of course, the interest and enthusiasm had somewhat abated, the attendance was not so large nor the acclamations so loud as when the first fleet departed; nevertheless, the magnificent spectacle drew together a large concourse of spectators, and created a warm interest throughout the nation. The chief difference between this fleet and that commanded by Sir C. Napier was, that whereas one division of the latter was composed chiefly of sailing line-of-battle ships, the former was entirely composed of vessels pro-

pelled by steam. The latter too was without floating batteries and mortar-vessels, with which the former was provided. It was followed by a flotilla of gunboats, while Sir C. Napier's fleet was attended by only one. Some delay was caused by a collision which took place between the Duke of Wellington, the largest ship in the fleet, and an American emigrant ship, obliging the admiral to transfer his flag from her to another ship, and to send her back to Gosport for repairs. The allied fleets met in the Baltic on the 1st of June. Their chief exploit there was the bombardment of Sveaborg by means of those gun and mortar-boats for want of which Sir C. Napier had not deemed it prudent to make any attack on it. The bombardment was carried on for three days, with scarcely any injury to the men or the ships. Upwards of ten thousand tons of shot and shell were rained on the fortress, setting fire to a large number of buildings, and causing a great destruction of life and property, but producing no appreciable effect on the result of the war. After its conclusion the state of the weather rendered it necessary that the fleets should withdraw, and they returned to their respective harbours. Sir C. Napier, in a letter he published on the subject, stated, and probably with truth, that if as large a number of gun and mortar boats had been sent when he commanded the fleet, the fortifications might have been completely destroyed, and a way opened for the large ships to operate; as it was, the work was entirely done by the gun and mortar boats, and the sailors in the large ships had no opportunity afforded them of participating in the fight; all they could do was to crowd the masts and yards of their vessels, and encourage their more actively-engaged comrades by their acclamations.

At the other theatre of war a more decisive success was achieved. The sufferings of the army at the commencement of the year 1855 were little, if at all, less severe than they had been at the close of the year 1854. Although public opinion at home was loudly demanding that our brave soldiers should be

supplied with everything necessary to maintain them in health, if not in comfort; but it was only very slowly that the improvements demanded could be introduced; and even when the supplies did reach Balaclava, it was with great difficulty that they could be sent forward to the men who were in the camp, and with still greater difficulty to those who were labouring in the trenches. The old track-road from Balaclava to the camp, never sufficient for the purpose, was so worn by the transit of artillery and heavy carriages, that it had become a sea of mud, through which vehicles could with difficulty be forced. It was determined therefore to lay down a railway; and about Christmas a large body of engineers and navvies, with all the material necessary for its construction and working, were sent out, and reached Balaclava towards the end of January. While the former were surveying the country, planning the proposed line, and making their preparations, the labourers they had brought with them were very usefully employed in clearing away the filth that cumbered the streets of Balaclava; which had been the fertile source of cholera and other diseases, and if allowed to remain would no doubt have proved still more fatal. Having rendered this great service, they next set to work on the railway; and in the course of a very short time it was laid down and in full operation, conveying all the ammunition which was required for the operations in front of Sebastopol, and ministering to the wants of the troops. Henceforth the soldiers in the camp and the trenches were well clad, sheltered, and supplied, and were consequently much better able to perform their duties. Reinforcements too were rapidly pouring in; large siege-guns were being brought up to the trenches; and when, on the 9th of April, the bombardment recommenced, the superiority of our fire over that of the Russians was very apparent. But while our men had been labouring in the trenches, the Russians had been as diligently occupied in throwing up fresh earthworks, and making Sebastopol a far more formidable fortress than ever; so that the allies had a very much greater and more dif-

ficult work now before them, after all their trials and sufferings, than they had when they first came before Sebastopol. One great advantage especially the Russians had been allowed to gain. A hill called the Mamelon, a position the possession of which was of the greatest possible importance to both parties, and which the allied troops might easily have occupied, was seized and fortified by the Russians in a way that greatly increased the difficulties with which their opponents had to contend, and served to prolong considerably the duration of the siege. General Canrobert, finding his health failing, and feeling himself unequal to the discharge of the duties of commander-in-chief, sent in his resignation, with a request that he might be allowed to serve under his successor as a general of division. In the reply his resignation was accepted; but instead of being made a simple general of division as he had requested, he was placed in command of the first corps of the army. By his own recommendation he was succeeded by General Pelissier. The man thus recommended was in every way fitted for the task that was confided to him. An older and more experienced soldier than Canrobert, having served in the French army for forty-one years out of a life of fifty-nine, like most of the eminent French generals of that time, the school in which he had chiefly learned the art of war was Algeria. He was a man of strong constitution, firm, resolute, and persistent; one who would work steadily on the same line till he had effected his object. About the same time reinforcements arrived, which brought the army under his command up to nearly 120,000, while the effective English force was raised to its old number of 30,000. A Sardinian contingent of 15,000 reached the Crimea about the same time, raising the total amount of the allied forces, including the Turks, to more than 200,000 effective men; an army more than sufficient to carry on the operations of the siege, and protect those who were engaged in the trenches. On the other side the Russians were endeavouring to entrench themselves more and more strongly against our attacks. It

was not so much a siege and defence of a town—for it must be remembered that the allies were never able to invest Sebastopol—as a contest between two armies each in communication with its respective country, one by sea, the other by land. Thus the victory was pretty sure ultimately to be with that party who could bring up its supplies and reinforcements with the greatest rapidity; and in this contest the allies had the advantage; while the difficulties of their opponents were continually increasing, as the roads by which the prodigious supplies of food and warlike material they required had to be brought over enormous distances, became worse and worse, and afforded a passage daily becoming more and more difficult.

At the commencement of June the generals of the allies determined to make another attack on the defences of Sebastopol. On the 9th of that month, and on the two following days, bombs, cannon-balls, rockets, and other fiery missiles were rained on the town with greater fury and persistence than on any previous occasion. The Russian batteries replied with nearly equal vigour. But the tremendous cannonade of the allies was chiefly intended to cover an attack which had previously been arranged by their generals, and which was to be directed against three of the most important of the Russian defences: the Sapone, or white redoubts, the Mamelon, and the quarries which lay between the British position and the Redan. The assaults on the two first-mentioned defences were undertaken by the French, that on the latter by the British: to the Turks was assigned the defence of Inkermann, and the other positions from which the English and French troops were withdrawn. The three attacks were separated from each other by the Varabelnaia and Careening ravines, which, however, served as a shelter for the British and French reserves. The quarries against which the efforts of the English were directed had been converted into rifle-pits, and as they formed a sort of outwork to the Redan, they had to be captured before it could be attacked. Our troops found them undefended, and

speedily converted them from a shelter to the defending Russians into a shelter for the attacking British by reversing their parapets: and then a force amounting only to about a thousand men, supported by artillery, held them against five repeated efforts made to recover them by a very superior Russian force; and so completely were the Russians overmastered by the fire poured on them from our batteries, that some of our officers made their way into the Redan, and, according to the reports they gave, that important fortress might have been captured; but the English general, not being aware of the condition to which it was reduced, would not, with the information he possessed, have been justified in giving an order which might greatly have accelerated the conclusion of the siege, and perhaps have led to the immediate capture of the town. Be this as it may, the British troops on this day accomplished the task that had been assigned them.

Our allies were no less successful. Bosquet, the ablest of the French generals, commanded the attack on the Mamelon; but it was an enterprise depending less on the skill of the general than on the agility and courage of the assailants. And the Zouaves, to whom the assault had been confided, possessed these qualifications in perfection. They scrambled like monkeys up the hill, carried battery after battery at the point of the bayonet, and ended by forcing their way into the redoubt that crowned it. But their precipitation nearly undid what their courage had accomplished. Carried away by an excess of ardour, in spite of the orders they had received to the contrary, they rushed towards the Malakoff, hoping to be able to carry it in the same manner as the Mamelon. But they were met with such a blast of artillery as compelled them first to stop, and then retreat. At this critical moment the Russian reserves poured down on them, drove them back in great confusion, and reconquered the Mamelon. Then the French reserves, under General Brunet, in their turn came on with a rush so impetuous that the Russians were again driven out of the redoubt, and

obliged to leave the French masters of the position. A large body of engineers were instantly pushed forward into the captured fort; and they laboured so diligently during the night, that when the morning dawned, the fortifications and guns of the Mamelon were turned against the fortress of which they had hitherto formed one of the most formidable defences. In this manner the allies at length won, at an enormous cost of life, a position which they might at one time have occupied without resistance.

Lastly, the Sapone, or white works, were seized by a sudden dash; and thus, in the course of a single day, the whole of the plan of the allied generals was accomplished; three positions of the utmost importance were transferred from the defenders of Sebastopol to its besiegers, and the defence was confined within narrower limits. But these advantages were not gained without a very heavy loss of life on the part of the allies whose killed and wounded amounted to about 5000.

Nothing on a large scale was attempted until the 17th, when the bombardment was renewed, and on the following day the attack was commenced. It had been decided that the English, who, since their conquest of the quarries, had advanced their zigzags considerably beyond it, should now attack the Redan; while the French, taking their recent conquests of the Mamelon and the white forts as the basis of their operations, were to endeavour to capture the Malakoff; and as this latter was the object principally aimed at, it was agreed that the advance of the English troops on the side of the Redan should be regulated by the progress made by their allies in their attack on the Malakoff. This plan, which appears to have been well-concerted, failed, partly on account of the brave and energetic resistance of the Russians, but chiefly through a want of ensemble in the French attack, arising from an unfortunate error on the part of the French general, Meyran, who mistook a shell for the rocket, the firing of which was the appointed signal for the simultaneous advance of the different attacks,

and gave the word to his division before the others were ready. The consequence of this mistake was, that the Malakoff, and all the batteries connected with it, poured an undivided fire on his troops, and soon threw them into a confusion which was increased by the fall of the general, and ended in a retreat. So that, when the signal-rocket was at length fired, General Brunet, who was to have advanced against another side of the Malakoff at the same moment that General Meyran made his attack, found his division exposed, as the other had been, to the whole fire of the Russian batteries, and was in turn obliged to desist. These failures produced similar ill success on the other points; and the only attack that was at all successful was that which was made under the command of Major-general Eyre, who actually forced his way into a considerable suburb of the town, and held the position he had gained for seventeen hours; at the end of that time he was compelled, by the failure of the other attempts and by the want of support, to withdraw his troops. It was thought by many that if he had been reinforced, he might have taken the Redan from the Sebastopol side.

This repulse was the first serious check the allies had received; the first indisputable triumph the Russians had gained, and they made the most of it. Lord Raglan only survived this failure ten days. As we have already seen, he breathed his last on the 28th of June. His death was attributed to cholera; but it is probable that disappointment, anxiety, and overwork, aggravated, if they did not produce, the disease to which he fell a victim. He was succeeded in his command, in right of seniority, by General Simpson; a man, like his predecessor, broken in health, but who was confirmed in the command by the home government. The great object of the allies now was to gain possession of the Malakoff and the Redan; but especially of the former, because it commanded the town, the fate of which would probably be decided by its capture. Many weeks were devoted to preparations for a second assault,

and the bombardment was not renewed till the 17th of August. The Russians, on the other hand, attempted to parry the meditated attack by strengthening their defences, and making another vigorous attack from without on the works of the besiegers.

Accordingly, on the 16th of August, the day before that on which it was intended that the bombardment should recommence, the Russian army outside Sebastopol, in obedience, as was believed, to positive orders despatched from St. Petersburg, descended into the valley of the Tchernaya, near the Traktir bridge, and commenced a violent attack on the allies, the brunt of which was borne by the French. The Russian commanders, according to their usual practice, had stimulated the courage of their men by a copious supply of brandy, the consequence of which was that they charged with the wildest impetuosity. After a fierce contest, they were driven back with terrible slaughter, which was rendered much greater by the circumstance that the bridge by which they attempted to retire, not being wide enough to allow the passage of the panic-stricken crowd, was rendered almost impassable. This battle appears to have formed part of a plan for a general assault on the allies from the town as well as outside, with a view to obtaining possession of the harbour and of Balaclava, and compelling the allies to raise the siege. The complete failure of the first operation frustrated the whole plan, and the battle did not at all interfere with the progress of the siege, which, as had been already arranged, recommenced with a severe bombardment on the day following. The last attempt had completely failed, and it now became evident that the allies could not be forced to relax their hold on the doomed town.

In all these operations the fleet had taken but little part, except that some sailors and marines had been landed to work in the trenches, and to assist in carrying on the siege. Indeed, the sailors in the larger ships were almost entirely debarred from obtaining the opportunity they panted after of dis-

tinguishing themselves. As in the Baltic, so too in the Black Sea, almost all the fighting was done by gunboats, mortar-boats, rafts, and small steam-vessels. Of these last an expedition was sent, countermanded, then despatched again to the sea of Azoff, which took many forts situated on the border of that sea, and destroyed great quantities of provisions belonging to the Russian government, and destined for the supply of the Russian army in the Crimea. It was indeed alleged by Prince Gortschakoff that the greater part of the property destroyed belonged to private individuals; but this was strenuously denied, and probably with truth, by the officers engaged in the expedition, who had been distinctly instructed to respect all private property, and to capture and destroy nothing but what belonged to the government. Particular cases may have occurred in which it was difficult or impossible to distinguish public from private property; but, apart from mistakes thus arising, there is good reason to believe the assertions of our officers.

We return from this brief digression to follow the course of the events that were occurring in and about Sebastopol, to the siege of which the operations in the sea of Azoff were designed to be subsidiary. It was on the 5th of September, 1855, just twelve months from the day on which the allied armies sailed from Varna, that the bombardment was renewed with greater vigour than ever, and was continued during the sixth, seventh, and a portion of the eighth days of that month. The cannonade of the French alone extended over a space of four miles; that of the English was more concentrated. The firing continued day and night, with only such intervals as were necessary to allow time for the pieces to cool. It was, however, only preparatory to a great attempt that was to be made to take the Malakoff and the Redan; the former of which especially was the object for the defence or capture of which the chief efforts both of besiegers and besieged had been put forth. This formidable work had been strengthened by all the means which

the ingenuity of the Russians could devise or their industry effect; and on the other hand every preparation had been made to overcome the obstacles it presented to the attacking force. Twenty-five thousand French and five thousand Sardinians were concealed in the trenches and elsewhere, impatiently waiting for the word of command to spring out and rush to the assault. The hour chosen for the commencement of the attack was about midday, because that was the time at which the Russians were accustomed to repose, and at which consequently many of them retired from the ramparts. Accordingly at twelve o'clock the firing ceased, and the assaulting party sped forth. They were provided with every necessary to enable them to surmount the obstacles which they would encounter. They passed the ditches, scrambled up the hill, and in a quarter of an hour the tricolor was floating on the old Tower of the Malakoff. Amongst those who rushed up was a party of engineers, who instantly commenced placing the heights in a position of defence against the Russians, who no doubt would not yield it without a severe struggle. Accordingly they soon came on in dense masses, and on came too the French on the other side, despatched by General Bosquet to the support of their countrymen. A tremendous struggle ensued, which we narrate in the graphic words of General Regon, who led the French engineers to the top of the hill:

'I entered the Malakoff at the head of the sappers with the Zouaves of the first division of the second corps d'armée. We climbed the ditch like cats, dislodged the enemy, forced the lines, and carried the redoubts with an enthusiasm and rapidity perfectly French. Our standards, planted on the parapets, were assailed and vigorously defended for more than six hours. After this heroic struggle, our column had alone the honour of remaining master of its conquests; the four others, two on our right and two on our left, were compelled to give way, leaving the ground covered with their killed and wounded. But our triumph sufficed to deprive the Russians of the power of retaining the redoubt.'

The part taken by the English on this great day was more creditable to the bravery of the soldiers than to the skill of their commander. General Simpson had committed to Generals Codrington and Markham the task of assaulting and if possible taking the Redan. The attack was delayed till the Malakoff was captured, in order that the efforts of the Russians might be distracted and paralyzed by a number of simultaneous assaults. Therefore the moment that the tricolor was seen floating on the Malakoff the signal for the assault on the Redan was given. At first a thousand men of various arms were sent out. They had to traverse a long distance under the hot fire of the enemy before they reached the place; and when they forced their way into it, the fire was equally severe, and multitudes were mowed down by it. In vain was messenger after messenger despatched for reinforcements; not one of them succeeded in escaping the fiery hail through which he had to pass in order to reach General Codrington. At last Colonel Windham, who commanded the handful that still remained, determined himself to undertake the errand; but while he was conferring with General Codrington, his men were driven out by the vastly superior force of Russians that was opposed to them. Pelissier, seeing that the struggle for the Malakoff was still going on, sent a message to General Simpson, begging him to effect a diversion of the Russian force by making a second attempt on the Redan, but the English General sent back word that his trenches were so crowded that he could not organize a fresh attacking force. Thus the first attack failed because too few took part in it; and a second was impossible, because there were too many present when it should have been made. An assault against the south-western part of the defences of the town, under the direction of General Canrobert, also failed. It was found that the Russians in this quarter were better entrenched and in greater force than had been anticipated; and as the attack had answered its main purpose, in diverting the attention of the Russians from the great struggle in the Malakoff,

Pelissier gave orders to desist as soon as he saw that his hold on the redoubt was secured. On the side of the besiegers about 10,000 men were killed or wounded on this terrible day, and the loss on the side of the Russians must have been much greater.

It had been intended that the attack on the Redan should be renewed on the following morning; but Gortschakoff, during the night, had taken measures which rendered any farther attempt unnecessary. Some time before, he had caused a bridge of boats to be constructed across the harbour, and he now made use of it to transport his army to the other side. The allied generals had some suspicion of what was going on, but made no attempt to interfere with the retreat of the enemy; and when the morning dawned, not only the troops, but the regular inhabitants, and as many of the wounded as it was possible to remove, had been transferred to the north side. All the principal buildings were blown up or burnt; the ships that still remained were either sunk or fired. Then the Russians removed the bridge by which they had crossed, and thus placed a deep arm of the sea between themselves and their antagonists. These last, on entering the town, found it shattered to an extent that they could not have anticipated. Everywhere there were tokens of the destruction that they had wrought. The houses were almost all destroyed; the streets literally paved with fragments of shells and other missiles sunk in the earth; the hospital contained a thousand dead who the day before had been carried into it alive, besides a large number who had been left behind because they were too severely wounded to be carried across the harbour with the rest of the army. One of the first tasks which the conquerors had to perform was the destruction of the forts, docks, and aqueducts, which had been constructed with extraordinary care and skill, and on which the Emperor Nicholas had expended enormous sums. This was effected with great difficulty; for such was the solidity of those works, that even the force of gunpowder would scarcely suffice to upheave them.

The capture of the south side of Sebastopol practically terminated the war. It had gained for the allies their great object —the safety of the Turkish empire, no longer menaced, now that the Black-Sea fleet and the fortress from which it issued had ceased to exist. On the other hand, the Russian government had nothing to gain, but everything to lose, by the continuance of a war which caused a terrible drain on its resources, and in which, owing to the distance and naval superiority of the allies, it could only receive their blows without returning them. The 'sick man' too, now that the Black-Sea fleet was no more, was strong enough, even without the aid of the allies, to defend his own territories from Russian aggression. For the present, however, the two armies remained confronting one another. Our soldiers were obliged to spend another winter in the neighbourhood of Sebastopol and Balaclava; but it was spent in a manner very different from that which had preceded it. They were amply supplied with necessaries, and even enjoyed some luxuries, warmly clad, comfortably housed in wooden huts, and probably, on the whole, as well protected from the inclemency of the weather, on the dreary Crimean coast, as they would have been at home.

There is one episode in this war which demands some notice, not so much on account of its own importance as on account of the interest it excited in this country—the heroic defence of Kars by General Williams. The Russians had invaded Asiatic Turkey in the year 1854, and had gained at Kurakderik a decisive victory, which had completed the disorganization of their opponents and opened the way to farther conquests. The Turkish army contained excellent materials; the common soldiers, if properly taught and officered, were quite a match for their Russian antagonists, as they had already shown in other fields; but they were led by jobbing and cowardly officers, incapable of developing the good qualities of their men or handling them properly in the day of battle. It was therefore determined to send an English officer, who

should endeavour to reorganize the Turkish army, and put it in a position to contend with the invaders. Colonel Williams, the officer selected, was admirably qualified for the task assigned to him. He had already been employed in settling the boundaries between Turkey in Asia and Persia, and had thus acquired a knowledge of the Turkish language and Turkish tribes and habits, that was indispensable to the fulfilment of his mission. Unhappily, however, the government did not show the same despatch in sending as it had displayed wisdom in selecting. Though appointed on the 2nd of August, he was not enabled to reach Kars till the 24th of September, when the disastrous battle, the result of which might possibly have been changed by his presence at it, had already been fought. He was accompanied by Dr. Sandwith, a medical man, and several young English officers. When he reached Kars, he found that he did not possess the power and the prestige necessary to introduce some order amongst the unruly elements with which he had to deal. He had, in fact, no authority over the Turkish officers, whose cupidity and mismanagement had ruined the army, and whose cowardice and ignorance had brought about the defeat it had suffered. He therefore wrote to Lord Clarendon, to ask that the title of Ferrick, or general, might be conferred on him by the Turkish government. Lord Clarendon forwarded the application to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe; but nothing was done. Letter after letter was despatched to the British minister, and by him the request was conveyed to the British ambassador; but still the matter was neglected. At last, when many valuable months had been lost, Lord Redcliffe was stimulated to do what was required, and the authority that Colonel Williams so much needed was granted to him.

Six weeks elapsed before the ambassador, to whom no fewer than fifty-four despatches, accompanied by private letters, had been sent by Colonel Williams, thought proper to move in the matter; and then ten weeks more were allowed by the Turkish

government to elapse before the firman was issued. One of the first uses the Colonel made of it was to send three peculating pashas for trial to Constantinople. The pay of the army was many months in arrear, the sick were neglected, the soldiers insufficiently supplied. All these evils were reformed. Dr. Sandwith was placed at the head of the hospital, and soon brought it into such order as had never been known in a Turkish hospital before. The people of the country, confiding in the promises of General Williams, brought in provisions in abundance. Captain Teesdale reorganized and restored the discipline of Kars, while the general was putting Erzeroum in a posture of defence. However, on the approach of the Russian army under its skilful general Mouravieff, he hastened to Kars, which he provisioned for four months, and prepared to defend to the last. Colonel Williams had pressed the Turkish authorities to send farther supplies of provisions, which would have enabled him to hold out two months longer. They only sent them to Yenekoï, fifty miles distant. Still, he might have conveyed them from this place if he had had cavalry, and for cavalry he had urgently applied to his own government; but none were sent. The inveterate red-tapism, by which he had been already so much hindered, afflicted and impeded him to the last. The Russians seized Yenekoï, without his being able to interfere with them, and took possession of the provisions, which, if introduced into Kars, would probably have prevented its fall. Meanwhile Williams, zealously aided by the young officers he had brought with him, was diligently preparing to meet the Russian attack. Earthworks were erected in every place in which they seemed to be required. Mouravieff arrived before Kars with an army of 50,000 men, a portion of which was detached to watch Erzeroum. It was now August, and the town was fully invested by the Russians. In order to get rid of as many useless mouths as possible, Williams directed the bashi-bazouks, or Turkish cavalry, to cut their way through the Russian army; which they did, with some loss. And now

all that remained was to husband the resources the town contained, and prepare as well as possible to meet any attempt of the enemy to take it by assault. On the 29th of September a great effort was made by General Mouravieff. His army advanced under the obscurity of the morning, and endeavoured to force its way into the town; but was met with such a resistance, that, after furious and repeated attacks, it was obliged to retire, leaving 5000 dead on the field. Williams did the best he could under the circumstances in which he was placed. He doled out biscuit, flour, and gruel flavoured with horse-soup, in quantities barely sufficient to sustain life; but at last even these resources failed; some died of hunger, others became idiotic from the same cause. There was no hope of relief or help. Selim Pasha, who might have come to his assistance, refused to advance. Omar Pasha, the ablest and most enterprising of the Turkish generals, was too far off to be able to reach him during the winter. A continued resistance could only increase the sufferings of the defenders. Therefore, on the 24th of November, Williams sent Captain Teesdale under a flag of truce to ask a conference with Mouravieff. The request was at once granted. The Russian general might have compelled Williams to surrender at discretion, but he displayed on this occasion a generosity that did him infinite honour. Instead of showing mortification at having been so long detained before Kars, and prevented from pushing his conquests in Asiatic Turkey, as he probably would have done but for the persistent resistance which Williams had offered, he warmly testified his admiration of the ability of the general, and the heroic endurance of the garrison; he granted terms which satisfied the demands of war without outraging humanity. The English officers who came into the power of the Russian general and his officers were treated by them with the most delicate attention and the greatest respect; and provisions were despatched in abundance for the use of the starving garrison. As we have already intimated, the progress of the

siege and the defence was watched with the deepest interest at home, and served in no small degree to swell the cry for administrative reform, which had already made itself loudly heard both in the legislature and in the country.

But it is now time that we should turn to the negotiations for peace, which, although, as we have seen, they had been momentarily interrupted by the return of Lord John Russell from Vienna, were still being carried on. The demands made on the part of the allies had been placed under four heads, which were known and talked of under the name of the 'four points,' till that phrase had become familiar as a household word throughout Europe. These points were:

1. That Russia should abandon all control over Moldavia, Wallachia, and Servia.

2. That Russia should relinquish her claims to control the mouths of the Danube.

3. That all treaties calculated to give Russia a preponderance in the Black Sea should be abrogated.

4. That Russia should renounce the claim she made to an exclusive right to protect the Christians in the Ottoman dominions.

The third point was the one that presented the chief difficulty. The Russian plenipotentiaries were neither prepared to admit the solution of it by the diminution of the Russian fleet in the Black Sea, nor to suggest any other way in which the object for which the allies contended might be effected. The discussions were then suspended for a time, to allow a reference to the czar. The conferences were resumed, the Russian ministers declared that they were not empowered to suggest any plan. The allies proposed a plan to which Prince Gortschakoff refused to consent; Count Buol then offered another, which, as has already been related, Lord John Russell personally thought satisfactory, but which his instructions prevented him from accepting, and therefore he withdrew from the conferences altogether, as did also M. Drouyn de Lhuys, the French plenipotentiary, who perfectly agreed with him in his

opinion. The proposal of Count Buol was, that the third point should be secured by allowing Russia, Turkey, England, and France, each to have the same number of ships in the Black Sea; so that the three allied powers together, might, whenever they chose, have a fleet three times as numerous as Russia could have. The English government, however, did not consider that this proposal would afford Turkey a sufficient security against Russian ambition, and they pressed Austria to join with them in demanding better securities, and, if they should be refused, in carrying on the war against Russia. To the pressure thus brought to bear on her, Austria replied by making various other proposals, having for their object the limitation of the Russian fleet in the Black Sea, or the counteraction of the dangers with which it threatened Turkey. But none of these proposals seemed sufficient to the allies, and it is by no means certain that any of them would have satisfied the czar. Austria considered that, having made these propositions to the allies in vain, she had exonerated herself from the obligation to take up arms. However, the rejection of his proposals did not discourage Count Buol. He still persevered in his efforts to bring about an agreement between the belligerents. Four new points were brought forward by him, which in substance were nearly the same as the four old points, though somewhat differently worded. The first redressed the Moldavian frontier, so as to render it more defensible against Russian invasion. The second took from Russia all control over the mouths of the Danube. The third proposed that no fleet and no naval station of any country should be permitted in the Black Sea, but that Russia, Turkey, England, France, Sardinia, and Austria might each of them have the same number of small armed vessels in that sea, to act as a sort of maritime police and to protect the coast; on the other hand, merchant-ships of all countries were to be allowed freely to enter it. Other questions were left to be settled by subsequent negotiations.

The czar, without hesitation, accepted these proposals as a basis for negotiating a treaty of peace; and on the 16th of January the news of his acceptance of them arrived in Paris and London. In the former city, and indeed throughout the whole of France, the announcement was welcomed with warm and heartfelt satisfaction. The French were beginning to be weary of a war in which they had no very direct interest; which was enormously costly; and in which they had won an increase of prestige and military glory, which might be impaired, and hardly could be improved, by the continuance of the war. The reception which the news met with here was less warm. England had, or appeared to have, a more visible and direct interest than France in the satisfactory settlement of the Eastern question. With her greater wealth, she was less oppressed by the burden of the war than France had been. She had, too, hitherto played but a secondary part in the war. She had been repulsed at Sveaborg, and she had failed in the attack on the Redan. The chief glory of the capture of Sebastopol belonged to France. It was urged, however, that our inferiority in this respect was owing, not so much to the greater bravery of the French troops, as to the maladministration of the English government, that this had now been remedied, and that great preparations had been made, at a vast expense, for continuing the war. A fleet of forty-four mortar-boats and floating batteries, and one hundred and sixty gunboats propelled by steam, had been got ready to sail with the larger ships into the Baltic; and it was hoped that this force would enable us to take Sveaborg and Cronstadt, and to dictate terms of peace in the capital of the Russian empire. The consequence was, that the feeling of satisfaction which was produced by the announcement of the probable conclusion of the war was largely tempered by a feeling of disappointment, that this costly and formidable armament should not be employed. At one time, indeed, it seemed not improbable that France would have retired from the contest, and have left England and Turkey to carry it on

alone. An eventuality for which Lord Palmerston declared that he was fully prepared. However, the acceptance of the basis of negotiation by the Russian emperor had virtually terminated the war. A congress was held at Paris, at which England was represented by Lords Clarendon and Cowley. An armistice was at once concluded; on the 30th of March the treaty was signed by the plenipotentiaries of the great powers, and on the 27th of April the ratifications were exchanged.

Thus ended one of the most formidable wars in which this country was ever engaged. It caused the loss of the lives of about twenty-two thousand British soldiers, of whom only some four thousand died by violence, the remainder being victims of disease, caused in most instances by exposure to wet and cold, by the want of proper food, clothing, or shelter from the inclemency of the weather. It cost this country in money at least 50,000,000*l.*, besides the far heavier loss, the amount of which it is impossible to estimate, arising from the disturbance of our home trade, and the interruption of our commerce with foreign nations. Still, it exhibited the extent of our resources by the buoyant elasticity with which the country recovered herself, after the tremendous contest in which she had been engaged.

Before the members of the conference, by which the pacification was brought about, separated, they agreed to the following very important improvements of international law relating to maritime operations in the time of war:

'1. Privateering is and remains abolished.

'2. The neutral flag covers enemies' goods, with the exception of contraband of war.

3. Neutral goods, with the exception of contraband of war, are not liable to capture under an enemy's flag.

'4. Blockades, in order to be binding, must be effective; that is to say, maintained by a force sufficient really to prevent access to the enemy's coast.'

The concurrence of the government of the United States of America, was sought for these resolutions. It was refused to

the first, but given to the rest. The objection was caused by the refusal of the European powers to agree that for the future all private property should be exempted from capture by ships of war.

The reception which the intelligence of the conclusion of peace met with in the Crimea was memorable. The allies on the south side of the harbour of Sebastopol hailed the news with a noisy exultation which must have been distinctly heard and understood on the opposite side of the harbour. The Russians, who still held possession of the northern part of the town, received it in sullen silence.

CHAPTER II.

THE INDIAN MUTINY.

It was generally hoped that the negotiations which had been opened at the commencement of 1856 would be followed by a speedy restoration of peace; and this hope was strengthened by the manner in which they were referred to in the Queen's speech at the opening of parliament on the 31st of January. That speech did not hold out any prospect that the legislative activity of the session would be greater than that of those which had preceded it now for some years. It recommended to the attention of parliament the improvement of the law of partnership, of the laws relating to shipping-dues, and the question of law reform; subjects little calculated to excite a strong feeling either in the legislature or the country. The House of Lords had undergone perhaps a greater change in its *personnel* than at the commencement of any previous session for many years past. Several peers had died since the last meeting of parliament, and consequently an unusually large number took their seats for the first time at the commencement of the session. But a new peerage had been conferred during the parliamentary vacation which attracted much more interest than all those which had been obtained by inheritance. Sir James Parke, lately one of the judges of the Court of Exchequer, had been raised to the peerage by the title of Baron Wensleydale; but the patent that conferred the peerage on him contained the unusual recital that his barony was to be held 'for the term of his natural life.' This creation was an attempt to revive a right which had been so long in abeyance that it

could not be shown ever to have been exercised by the crown since the reign of Richard II. The reason assigned for the revival of this long-dormant right, was the necessity that existed for the augmentation of the number of the law lords by whom appeals were heard, and who in fact constituted the tribunal of appeal in the last resort, which in theory was composed of the whole House of Lords. The number of law lords was too small, and many of them were superannuated, so that there was often difficulty in obtaining a sufficient attendance; and even when they did attend the appeal frequently was from a more competent to a less competent court. There could be no doubt that a person more proper than Sir James Parke to fill the office of judge of appeal in the last resort could not have been selected. He was an able lawyer, a profound scholar, a very acute and experienced judge, a man of dignified appearance, high character, and one who inspired confidence in men of all parties. As his only child was a daughter, the non-hereditary character of his peerage was to him personally a matter of little moment; but this circumstance made it all the more evident that the appointment was made by the government for the purpose of establishing a precedent; and it was naturally regarded with great jealousy by many peers, who suspected that if the attempt succeeded in this instance, the government would try to strengthen their party in the House, and perhaps even to change their minority into a majority, by the creation of a large number of life-peers; a proceeding which, in their opinion, was calculated to impair the dignity and importance of the House, and to which many of the supporters of the government entertained as strong an objection as the Tories themselves. They feared that if this claim were once admitted, the hereditary peerage would be gradually transformed into a life-senate, and that in the end the example which had been set in France twenty years before would be followed in England, and the peerage become tenable only during the natural life of its holder. There was, therefore, a very strong feeling in the

house against the proposed innovation; and Lord Lyndhurst, who was just eighty-eight years old, came forward and put himself at the head of the opposition to it. The ministers, and those who supported them in the step they had taken, argued that as there was already in the House a bench of bishops holding their seats for life, so too there might very conveniently be a bench of lawyers holding their seats on the same condition. They also urged that if, on the one hand, there was a danger that the precedent set in the case of Lord Wensleydale should be followed too frequently, there was, on the other hand, at least an equal danger that, in attempting to keep up the appellate jurisdiction of the House by the appointment of a sufficient number of hereditary peers, many comparatively poor members might be introduced into the House, and detract from the weight and influence it possessed in virtue of the large territorial estates possessed by most of its members. It was asked by the opposition, if the crown can revive a right which has slept for so many centuries, why might it not revive other rights that had been dormant for a much shorter period? why, for instance, might it not appoint members of the House of Commons, and thus destroy the constitution as it now exists? It was also asked: 'If the crown can, by its independent and unsupported action, reform the House of Lords, why should it not also have the power to reform the House of Commons, without the concurrence of the other branches of the legislature?' These reasons induced not only Lord Lyndhurst and the men who usually acted with him to oppose the introduction of life-peers, but also many of those who usually gave a warm and energetic support to the government, foremost among whom was Lord Campbell. Three great legal authorities who seldom agreed on any point were united in strenuous opposition to this change —Lords Lyndhurst, Brougham, and Campbell. The lord chancellor, on the other hand, who was probably the author of the proposal, zealously supported it; and the government did their best to justify the step they had taken. The ancient original

patents, discoloured and almost illegible, of Guiscard d'Aigle, created Earl of Huntingdon, and of De Vere Earl of Oxford, created successively Marquis and Duke of Dublin in the reign of Richard II., were produced and read to the House in the original Latin. After much discussion, and the proposal of a great number of resolutions, the government yielded, and conferred on Sir James Parke a patent of peerage drawn up in the usual form. This attempt, however, had the effect of calling attention to the unsatisfactory manner in which the appellate jurisdiction of the House was exercised, and produced many suggestions for its improvement; of those the one which obtained the greatest attention was one made by Lord Derby, who recommended that the judges should be allowed to speak and vote on judicial matters, and that the vice-chancellors and the equity judges should be included, and that certain of the lords of session should be summoned in cases of Scotch appeals. He proposed the appointment of a committee, to which Lord Granville, on the part of the government, assented; but he suggested that certain words should be added to the motion, in order to enlarge the scope of the inquiry which the committee was to make, and to include in it other questions to which the Wensleydale peerage had given rise.

The attention of the House of Commons was again called to the purchase system by Sir De Lacy Evans, who proposed a motion for the appointment of a select committee 'to examine evidence and report to the House on the expediency of abolishing the system of sale and purchase in the army.' The motion was resisted on the part of the government by Mr. F. Peel, on the ground that the present system had been in existence for a hundred and fifty years, and had so worked itself into the constitution of the army, that it could not be changed without great difficulty, and a danger of producing more serious evils than those which were attributed to the system as it then existed. He also urged that the proposed change would cost the country at least six or seven millions of money; a sum

which it would be very inconvenient to add to the heavy debt which had been incurred during the Russian war. Ultimately Sir De Lacy Evans was induced to withdraw his motion, on a promise given by Lord Palmerston that the government would issue a mixed commission to inquire into the whole subject.

The treaty of peace was signed at Paris, on Sunday, the 30th of March, though, as the ratifications were not exchanged, the conditions on which it was concluded were not made public. The event itself was, however, proclaimed, with the usual formalities by the Lord Mayor, on the day following, from the front of the Mansion House and at the Royal Exchange. The roar of the Tower guns and of cannon placed in St. James's Park made the joyful tidings known through the metropolis, and was immediately followed by the ringing of the bells of the different churches, and other tokens of rejoicing.

But while every steeple of the city was sending forth its merry music, a frightful tragedy was being enacted in front of Newgate prison. There a man named Bousfield was to be executed for the murder of his wife and three of his children, under circumstances of a very aggravated character. He was led on to the scaffold in such a state of seeming weakness as to appear to be barely able to support himself; but scarcely had the deep thud of the falling drop been heard when the horror-stricken crowd of spectators shrieked out 'He's up again!' And so indeed he was. By a tremendous and convulsive effort he had flung his feet on to the edge of the aperture through which he had fallen, and was making strong efforts to raise his pinioned arms to his neck. He was at once pushed from his resting-place by one of the assistants, but sprang upon it a second and a third time; and the executioner was obliged to hold off the body of the unhappy man till he ceased to live, in order to prevent a fourth repetition of his attempt to save his life. This dreadful scene produced a profound impression throughout the country. The advocates of the abolition of capital punishment dwelt on the horror of this dreadful exhibition. Others appealed

to it as an argument in favour of executing criminals within the precincts of the prison; while others recommended the adoption of a mode of execution calculated to prevent the recurrence of such scenes, and to shorten the agony of the criminal. But the public attention was speedily diverted from these topics by the interest which the peace excited, and by the eclipsing horror of one of the most atrocious deeds of darkness that has ever been committed in this or any other country.

In every age the crime of the poisoner has justly been regarded with an intense and peculiar detestation, but that detestation is aggravated when the murderer is one that approaches his victim with professions of friendship; and the deep abhorrence with which the criminal and his crime are regarded is still farther intensified when he abuses the confidence placed in him as a medical man, and while pretending to give a healing draught administers a deadly potion. The crimes of which William Palmer, a surgeon, of Rugeley, in Staffordshire, was accused, presented all these features of atrocity, and many others besides. They had been planned and carried out by him in the most deliberate and cold-blooded manner. In order to obtain some money from a person of the name of Cook, with whom he had been on terms of professed friendship, he first forged a cheque; then, to prevent discovery, he attempted to poison him with antimony, and at length effected his purpose by administering strychnine in pills. His trial for this offence commenced on the 14th of May, and was continued over twelve days, at the end of which time he was convicted; but the evidence produced at the trial showed that this was neither his only nor his most atrocious crime. There can be no doubt that, after having compelled his unhappy wife to commit a forgery, he had poisoned her; that he had destroyed his mother and his brother, as well as several of his acquaintances, by the same means and from the same motives. Nevertheless he denied his guilt to the last, and when asked by the high sheriff, just before his execution, whether he acknowledged the justice

of the sentence in virtue of which he was about to suffer, he replied with great firmness of tone, 'No, sir, I do not; I go to the scaffold a murdered man.' His death appeared to be instantaneous.

It may seem strange that, though he had long been the object of strong suspicion, he had succeeded, partly by blandishments and partly by threats, in preventing any investigation of the circumstances of the deaths of several of his patients, which had occurred under extremely suspicious circumstances. When the inquiry into the death of Cook was going on, and facts were being brought to light which established a moral certainty of Palmer's guilt, the postmaster in Rugeley secretly opened a letter from the chemist to whom the contents of Cook's stomach had been sent for analysis, and the coroner so far forgot his duty as to receive hints and suggestions, and a present of game from Palmer, at the time when the inquest on Cook's body was about to be held. However, that functionary was unable to prevent a verdict of wilful murder from being brought in against his friend, not only in the case of Cook, but also of Palmer's wife and brother, whose bodies had been exhumed for the purpose of inquiry into the cause of their death.

These atrocious crimes served to draw public attention to the defective state of the law with regard to the sale of poisons. Lord Chief-Justice Campbell inquired, in his place in the House of Lords, whether the government intended to bring in a measure dealing with the subject, and was told in reply that a bill was being prepared by the home secretary.

The war with Russia had left behind it a dispute with the United States. In accordance with the provisions of the foreign-enlistment bill, carried during the last session, American citizens had been induced to enter into the service of the Queen, and it was somewhat angrily complained that this had been done in violation of the laws of the States as well as of international law. The English government at once put a stop to the enlistment of American citizens, and tendered a full apology to the

American government; but it was very ungraciously received, and our minister at Washington was summarily and somewhat insultingly dismissed. The conduct of the American government roused a strong feeling of indignation in England, and, on the other hand, the ill-temper of the Americans was exasperated when they learnt that one of the attachés of the American minister at London had been refused admission to the Queen's levee because he appeared there in a dress which did not conform to the regulations of the court of St. James's. While the ill-feeling on both sides was at its height, a motion was brought forward in the House of Commons by Mr. Moore, which was in fact an attempt to censure the ministry for their conduct in reference to this matter. He was supported not only by those who thought with him that the Americans really had good reason to complain of the conduct of the government in reference to the matter, but also by many Conservatives, whose object was to gain a party advantage, while others, like Mr. Spooner, without giving any opinion on the conduct of the government, declined to join in this attempt to embarrass them. Eventually the motion was treated as a vote of want of confidence in the ministry, and rejected by a majority of 274 to 80.

Little needs to be said with regard to the general legislation of this year. If the two war sessions had been legislatively barren, the first peace session that followed them was not more fertile. The government had promised few measures in the Queen's speech at the commencement of the session, and their performances fell short of their promises. They carried absolutely nothing that exercised any appreciable influence on the progress and prosperity of the nation, or the development of its resources. The expenses which the war entailed, even after its close, made it necessary that 5,000,000*l.* should be raised above the ordinary revenue of the year; and it was proposed and agreed that this should be effected, not by additional taxation, but by a loan, which was negotiated without difficulty.

Towards the close of this year a fraud of a very extensive character on the shareholders of the Crystal Palace was brought to light. A man named Robson, in the service of the company, was found to have sold forged transfers of the stock to the amount of 27,000*l.*, which he had appropriated to his own purposes. But this robbery was completely eclipsed by the discovery which was soon after made of frauds practised on the Great Northern Railway Company by one of its servants named Leopold Redpath, who by means of fictitious capital had defrauded the company to the extent of 250,000*l.* Both these offenders were arrested, tried, and convicted. The former was sentenced to twenty years' transportation for larcenies of which he had been guilty and fourteen years for forgery; the latter was punished with transportation for life.

On the whole, the year 1856, which had commenced with the gloomy prospect of prolonged war, closed under far happier auspices. Peace had been obtained on terms which satisfied the national pride, though they did not entirely answer its high-raised expectations; and with the war the craving for naval and military glory had disappeared. The dispute with the United States respecting the enlistment question had gradually subsided. A thoroughly good understanding prevailed between England and the other great powers of Europe. For a moment indeed the prospect had been obscured, and it had seemed likely that England would have been replunged into war with Russia without the aid of France. But Russia yielded, the threatening cloud passed away, and the star of England was more than ever in the ascendant. The alliance with France continued to be as cordial as ever, and promised to lead to amicable and commercial relations between the two countries of so intimate a nature as to place it almost out of the power of any government to disturb them. It appeared as if the union thus happily cemented would secure the general peace of Europe, and that the English government, now released from all doubt and anxiety with regard to the Eastern question,

would soon be enabled to re-enter that path of fiscal and financial reform which had so greatly increased the prosperity of the nation, and which, it was hoped, would be resumed and carried forward now that the causes which had interrupted it had been removed. But events soon occurred which dashed these anticipations, or at least deferred their fulfilment for several years.

The parliamentary session of the year 1857 was opened by commission on the 3rd of February. The royal message read on the occasion did not afford a prospect of greater legislative activity than had distinguished the session that had followed the breaking-out of the Crimean war. The only subjects it recommended to the attention of parliament were legal and banking reform.

One of the earliest questions with which the House of Commons was called upon to deal, related to the manner in which our criminal population should be disposed of. It occurred to Mr. H. Mayhew that some very useful light might be thrown on it by the criminals themselves. Accordingly he called a meeting of ticket-of-leave men, which was held at Farringdon Hall, and presided over by the Earl of Carnarvon, and laid before them the questions on which he wished to consult them. Some interesting information was elicited from this curious assembly. They all energetically repudiated and condemned the cowardly practice of garrotting. They bore testimony to the difficulty, amounting almost to impossibility, which most of them found in obtaining any kind of employment; though a few of them stated that they had been more fortunate in this respect than their fellow-convicts, and had been able to maintain themselves and their families in a position of respectability. They unanimously and unhesitatingly declared their preference of a ticket-of-leave in the colonies to a ticket-of-leave in England.

The question on which this meeting was intended to throw light was brought before the House of Commons by Sir George

Grey on Monday the 9th of February. The subject of transportation had for some years past been forced on the serious consideration of the executive and the legislature owing to the natural reluctance displayed by the inhabitants of many of our colonies to receive our outcast population. As early as the year 1840 the Archbishop of Dublin in the Lords, and Sir W. Molesworth in the Commons, had proposed the complete abolition of this punishment; and the government so far yielded as to abandon the practice with regard to most of our colonies, reserving only Western Australia as a place to which convicts might still be sent. This arrangement necessitated the substitution of some other punishment for that of transportation; and in 1853 Lord Chancellor Cranworth introduced into the Upper House a bill having that object in view. He proposed that the penalty of transportation should be retained only in the case of those who had committed offences which rendered them liable to be transported for fourteen years and upwards—such as receivers of stolen goods; persons who had been guilty of outrages, violent assaults, or attempts to do grievous bodily harm; housebreakers, burglars, and cattle-stealers. He proposed that those who were convicted of offences, which up to this time had been punished with transportation for seven years, should henceforth be kept in penal servitude, and should in case of good conduct receive a remission of their punishment, under the ticket-of-leave system. This last portion of the bill was strongly opposed in the House of Commons by Mr. Keating; but the measure was ultimately passed. This act, which was entitled 'An act to substitute in certain cases other punishments in lieu of transportation,' had been found by experience to be insufficient for the object it had in view; and the bill now brought forward by the home secretary was designed to improve it. The measure was based on the recommendation of a committee of the House of Commons, which had been engaged in investigating the subject, and which had come to the conclusion that the duration of penal servitude should be lengthened, so as to

make it equal to the punishments of transportation, for which it had been substituted; and that the sentence might be carried out either by the infliction of penal servitude at home, or of transportation to Western Australia, where the colonists were still willing to accept convicts, on account of the difficulty of obtaining a sufficient number of labourers. Sir G. Grey, after explaining the circumstances under which the ticket-of-leave and the licensing systems, now both confounded under the general name of ticket-of-leave, had been adopted, and the extent to which they had been carried, pointed out that the real difficulty was not what they are to do when working out their sentence, but what they are to do after it has expired. The changes he proposed to introduce were these:

'1. To lengthen the term of sentence of penal servitude to an equal duration with that of the periods of transportation for which they are substituted.

'2. To give the judges a discretionary power to pass sentences of intermediate severity between those of ordinary imprisonment and the minimum of transportation.

'3. To allow prisoners sentenced to penal servitude to be removed to certain colonies.

'4. To continue the practice of mitigating sentences as a reward for good conduct in prison; but to restrict the range of their remission within much narrower limits than are now observed, while rendering the discharges, generally speaking, unconditional.'

On Monday, the 19th of February, the House of Commons was engaged in discharging the unusual duty of expelling a delinquent member—Mr. James Sadleir, member for Tipperary, whom plain-spoken Mr. Roebuck did not hesitate to stigmatize, and justly too, as a 'thief' and a 'swindler.' This 'honourable' gentleman, and his 'honourable' brother, Mr. John Sadleir, member for Sligo, had been deeply concerned in a series of fraudulent banking transactions, by which they had brought grief and ruin upon thousands. Mr. John Sadleir committed suicide,

and his brother James fled from justice. A motion for his expulsion had been made last session, but had failed through the opposition of government, which regarded it as premature. Now, however, the motion, made with the full approval of the cabinet, by the attorney general for Ireland, in a thin house, was seconded by Mr. G. Butt, and agreed to without opposition.

The budget was brought forward only ten days after the opening of the session. The chancellor of the exchequer, in making his financial statement, said that he had estimated the revenue of the current year at 71,740,000*l.*; it actually amounted to 71,885,000*l.* The expenditure, including a loan of 1,000,000*l.* to Sardinia, and the vote of credit of 2,000,000*l.*, he estimated at 82,113,000*l.*; showing a deficiency of 10,373,000*l.*, or, deducting the margin of 2,000,000*l.*, of 8,373,000*l.* In order to cover this deficiency, certain loans had been effected, which, with the issue of 1,000,000*l.* of exchequer bills amounted to 7,499,000*l.* borrowed money for the year. The power of borrowing granted to the government had been limited to 4,000,000*l.*, but had been exercised by them only to the extent of 1,000,000*l.*, and would not be used any farther. The total receipts, from loans, revenue, and exchequer bills, amounted to 79,384,000*l.*; the actual expenditure would amount to 78,000,000*l.*, leaving a balance of 1,384,000*l.* The chancellor of the exchequer pointed out that the war which had just ended entailed a great and extraordinary outlay, and calculated that the expenditure for the ensuing year would amount to 68,474,000*l.* of which he gave the details. He proposed to reduce the income-tax from 16*d.*, which it had been during the war, to 7*d.*, which was the amount at which it had been put by Sir R. Peel when he first proposed it, and at which it was now intended that it should continue for three years. The announcement was received with loud cheers, which was succeeded by no less loud laughter, when it was observed that a large number of members on both sides arose

from their seats and walked out of the House. As soon as the noise which was caused by their departure had subsided, the finance minister continued his statement to a comparatively thin House. He pointed out that the result of this change would be, that the exchequer would receive 21,000,000*l.*, being 5,000,000*l.* less than it had received during the war. He then explained and justified some changes he intended to make in the tax on small incomes, as well as on tea and sugar. He concluded by stating that the total amount of taxes that would be reduced this year was 11,971,000*l.*, and that if the liabilities of the next three years should be discharged, and the accruing liabilities met, the entire debt of 40,000,000*l.* owing to the war would be extinguished in twenty years.

The statement, on the whole, gave great satisfaction. It was true, as we have seen, that Sir C. Lewis did not succeed in chaining the attention of his audience, as his more brilliant predecessors—Messrs. Disraeli and Gladstone—had done when they delivered their financial statements. But he had far surpassed Lord Althorp, Mr. Spring Rice, Sir Charles Wood, Sir Francis Baring, and even Mr. Goulburn, in the delivery of his statement; while it was felt that the plan itself was one of considerable merit, that it had been clearly stated and ably justified. It was evidently a budget conceived in the spirit of those great financial reforms which Sir R. Peel had so successfully commenced, and Mr. Gladstone had so ably carried on, affording a hope that, when the debts incurred during the war had been paid off, fresh financial and fiscal progress would be effected. The budget, however, was not allowed to pass without opposition. The chief struggle took place on an amendment moved by Mr. Disraeli. The debate to which it gave rise was remarkable on account of the great confusion of parties which it exhibited. On the one hand Mr. Gladstone and Sir James Graham spoke and voted in favour of Mr. Disraeli's motion; while Messrs. Milner Gibson, Cobden, and Sidney Herbert supported the ministry, which triumphed by the decisive majority of eighty votes.

The government was less successful in its attempt to oppose a motion made by Mr. Cobden on the subject of hostilities with China, into which this country had been drawn. A motion condemning the conduct of government in reference to this affair had been submitted by Lord Derby to the House of Lords, where it had been rejected by a majority of thirty-six. On the same evening Mr. Cobden moved 'That this House has heard with concern of the conflicts which have occurred between the British and Chinese authorities in the Canton river; and, without expressing an opinion as to the extent to which the government of China may have afforded this country cause of complaint respecting the non-fulfilment of the treaty of 1842, this House considers that the papers which have been laid upon the table fail to establish satisfactory grounds for the violent measures resorted to at Canton in the late affair of the "Arrow;" and that a select committee be appointed to inquire into the state of our commercial relations with China.'

The debate was carried on with extraordinary ability. The conduct of the government was assailed by Mr. Cobden, Mr. Gladstone, Sir J. Graham, Lord J. Russell, and Mr. Disraeli, and was defended with great spirit by Lord Palmerston. But a strong feeling prevailed that the government had one rule for the weak and another for the strong, and that the conduct of Sir J. Bowring, our plenipotentiary, for which the government was responsible, had been characterized by overbearing insolence towards the Chinese authorities. The discussion turned principally on the somewhat technical question whether the lorcha 'Arrow,' which had been boarded by the Chinese, was legally an English vessel. As the debate proceeded, the interest it awakened increased, because it became more and more evident that it involved the fate of the government; and though it was generally expected, even by the mover of the resolution and his supporters, that it would be rejected, yet some hopes were entertained that it would succeed. While the matter was still in suspense, meetings were held on the

one hand by the opposition, and on the other by the friends of the government, at each of which it was resolved that all their strength should be put forth to secure a result favourable to their party. The Conservatives were in great spirits; for they could reckon in this instance on the support not only of Mr. Cobden and his friends and the small Peelite party, but also on that of Lord J. Russell and those who usually acted with him. But besides this, there can be no doubt that the government had lost many of its supporters through the indifference they had manifested on the question of reform. Two motions had been brought forward relating to this question, one by Mr. Locke King, and one by Sir J. Walmsley, both of which had been opposed by the government, and, mainly through their opposition, rejected by large majorities; without any pledge having been given, or expectation held out, that ministers would take up this question at any future time. Thus, at the moment of its greatest peril the government was regarded with a feeling of apathy and indifference by many of those who still ranked among its supporters both in the House and the country. The division was therefore likely to be a close one; and was anticipated with that feeling of earnestness and trepidation which is only excited when some great interest is at stake, or the fate of a government is in the balance.

When the House divided the numbers were:

For Mr. Cobden's resolution	263
Against	247
Majority against the government	16

It was half-past two o'clock when the House adjourned.

On the very day on which this important division took place, intelligence reached this country that the war between England and Persia, which had been frequently referred to in the debates, had been terminated by a peace, the terms of which were satisfactory to both of the belligerents.

On the evening of Thursday, March 5, the day following

that on which the above-mentioned intelligence arrived, Lord Granville in the House of Lords, and Lord Palmerston in the House of Commons, announced the decision at which the government had arrived in consequence of the adverse vote that had been given. They stated that the government had determined not to resign, but to dissolve; and they justified the resolution to which they had come by referring to the impossibility of forming any government whatever that could carry on the business of the House with the present parliament. They also observed that the parliament had already reached a greater age than most of its predecessors. They explained that if the state of public business had admitted an immediate dissolution, parliament would have been dissolved at once. The estimates were not voted, the taxes were not arranged, the mutiny bill was not passed, and would expire before parliament could reassemble. It was proposed that when these and other necessary measures had been carried, the dissolution should at once take place; and ministers begged the members of the two Houses to abstain from throwing obstacles in the way of the appeal to the nation being made as speedily as possible. Some dissatisfaction was expressed at the silence of ministers on the subject of the vote which had been carried against them; but all the efforts of their opponents failed to elicit from them any other information than that the policy of the government with regard to China would continue to be what it always had been—a policy for the protection and promotion of British interests, and that the question of the continuance or recall of Sir J. Bowring as plenipotentiary at Hong-Kong was one that had been, and still was, under the grave consideration of the cabinet.

Of course the thoughts of all were now fixed on the coming electoral struggle. Members hurried down to the places they represented, or spoke not so much to the House as to their constituents; bills were pushed through or dropped as speedily as the forms of the House would allow; and Mr. Shaw Le-

fevre, the speaker of the moribund parliament, who now finally retired from the chair, was thanked and praised for his services, as he richly deserved to be; the leaders of the different parties in the House warmly eulogizing him, and the members showing their respect by remaining uncovered while he delivered his valedictory address. A provisional budget went rapidly through its various stages, all men helping it forward. Lord Derby took advantage of the second reading of the income-tax bill to deliver a manifesto, intended to place before the country a programme of the policy of the conservative party; and by Wednesday, the 18th of March, the necessary business of parliament had been so far completed, that the Commons were able to adjourn to Saturday, when a much greater number of members assembled than could have been expected, considering the proximity of the elections; and then the two Houses were prorogued with the ordinary formalities by commission, with a message of more than usual brevity.

The issue on which the country was invited to give its decision by the general election was simply confidence, or want of confidence, in Lord Palmerston. He had earned much popularity and a high reputation by the vigour with which he had carried on the Crimean war, and by the terms on which he had brought it to a conclusion. If those terms had been very closely scanned, they might perhaps have been found not to have really accomplished as much as was supposed; but the people generally were willing to regard them as satisfactory, and were contented to know that Lord Palmerston had carried on the war with vigour and ability, had brought it to a speedy termination, and had firmly enforced the conditions he had obtained. Another circumstance that strongly biassed the constituencies in his favour was that accounts came pouring in of the frightful atrocities perpetrated by the Chinese—the poisoning of the wells, the poisoning of the bread by the bakers, the cold-blooded murder of many Europeans, the horrible and disgusting

details of the execution of between sixty and seventy thousand Chinese in the course of a few months.

The news of the conclusion of peace with Persia reached this country just too late to influence the division on the Chinese question; but it arrived soon enough to swell the strong tide of popular feeling in favour of Lord Palmerston which was rising among the constituencies. The premier had also won golden opinions from the Evangelicals by his appointment of bishops who belonged to that party. He was eulogized by them as 'the true Protestant,' 'the Christian premier,' 'the man of God.' Altogether the appeal to the country was made under a favourable conjunction of circumstances such as rarely, if ever, had occurred at any previous election; and the supporters of the government triumphed very largely, while that party which had brought about its defeat and the condemnation of its Chinese policy—the great party which had procured the repeal of the corn-laws, which had enabled Peel and Gladstone to carry out their excellent financial measures, which had most strenuously contended for retrenchment and reform—was almost everywhere defeated. Cobden, Bright, Milner Gibson, Fox, were all rejected by the constituencies which had previously elected them by large majorities, and that too confessedly without any change of opinion on their part. They maintained consistently the principles they had always professed; but their constituents deliberately adopted the war-policy, of which Palmerston was the foremost representative, instead of the peace-policy, of which the rejected statesmen were the zealous and consistent advocates. The election which of all others produced the greatest moral effect on the country was that for Manchester, hitherto represented by Messrs. Bright and Milner Gibson. The former gentleman was prevented from being present at the election by an illness brought on by the earnest diligence with which he had served his constituents and his country. His interests, however, did not seriously

suffer by his absence; but the result of the poll showed how great had been the change in the views and sentiments of the electors. The numbers were: Sir J. Potter, 8368; Mr. J. A. Turner, 7854; Mr. Gibson, 5588; Mr. Bright, 5458.

This result had been obtained by a coalition of Conservatives and Palmerstonian Whigs against the more advanced Liberal party. Mr. Bright took leave of the electors of the great city which he had so ably and faithfully represented in the following address:

'*To the Electors of the City of Manchester.*

'Gentlemen,—I have received a telegraphic despatch informing me of the result of the election-contest in which you have just been engaged. That result has not greatly surprised me, and as far as I am personally concerned—inasmuch as it liberates me from public life in a manner that involves on my part no shrinking from my duty—I cannot seriously regret it. I lament it on public grounds, because it tells the world that many amongst you have abandoned the opinions you professed to hold in the year 1847, and even so recently as the year 1852. I believe that slander itself has not dared to charge me with having forsaken any of the principles on the honest support of which I offered myself twice, and was twice accepted, as your representative. The charge against me has rather been that I have too warmly and too faithfully defended the political views which found so much favour with you at two previous elections.

'If the change in your opinion of me has arisen from my course on questions of the war with Russia, I can only say that, on a calm review of all the circumstances of the case—and during the past twelve months I have had ample time for such a review—I would not unsay or retract any one of the speeches I have spoken, or erase from the records of parliament any one of the votes I have given upon it, if I could thereby reverse the decision to which you have come, or secure any other distinction which it is in the power of my countrymen to

confer. I am free, and will remain free, from any share in the needless and guilty bloodshed in that melancholy chapter in the annals of my country. I cannot, however, forget that the leaders of the opposition in the recent contest have not been influenced by my conduct on this question. They were less successful, but not less bitter, in their hostility in 1852, and even in 1847, when my own public merit or demerit consisted in my labours in the cause of free trade. On each occasion calling themselves Liberals, and calling their candidates liberal also, they have coalesced with Conservatives, whilst now doubtless they have assailed Mr. Gibson and myself on the ground of a pretended coalition with Conservatives in the House of Commons.

'I have esteemed it a high honour to be one of your representatives, and have given more of mental and physical labour to your service than is just to myself; I feel it scarcely less an honour to suffer in the cause of peace, and on behalf of what I believe to be the true interests of my country, though I could have wished that the blow had come from other hands, at a time when I could have met face to face those who dealt it.

'In taking leave of you and of public life, let me assure you that I can never forget the many—the innumerable kindnesses I have received from my friends among you. No one will rejoice more than I shall in all that brings you prosperity and honour; and I am not without a hope that, when a calmer hour shall come, you will say of Mr. Gibson and of me, that, as colleagues in your representation for ten years, we have not sacrificed our principles to gain popularity, or bartered our independence for the emoluments of office or the favours of the great. I feel that we have stood for the rights and interests and freedom of the people, and that we have not tarnished the honour or lessened the renown of your eminent city.

JOHN BRIGHT.

'Florence, March 31, 1857.'

The calm dignity with which Mr. Bright relinquished public life, as it then seemed for ever, excited a profound sensation

and a deep sympathy for him, even amongst the more generous of his opponents. They could not but feel that unswerving consistency and honest and highly able services had met with a very undeserved recompense. As far as he himself was personally concerned, the decision of his constituents was probably a fortunate one; for he was at the time of his rejection suffering from a severe illness, which the attempts he would probably have made to discharge the duties devolving on him as the representative of such a constituency as Manchester would have seriously and perhaps fatally aggravated. As it was, he was enabled to enjoy that complete rest and perfect exemption from care and anxiety that were the almost indispensable conditions of his recovery. Scarcely less sympathy was felt for Mr. Cobden, who had been defeated, though by a much smaller majority, at Huddersfield.

Naturally the election for the city of London excited great attention, and the more so because the contest was severe, and because one of the candidates was Lord John Russell, whose candidature gave to this contest, to a considerable extent, the character of a struggle in the metropolitan constituency of the empire in favour of or against reform; a question respecting which the sentiments of Lord Palmerston were, to say the least, doubtful; and the election of Lord J. Russell, who stood third on the poll, might be regarded as a declaration in favour of the section of the Whig party which advocated farther parliamentary reforms, and against that which was supposed to be indifferent or hostile to great organic changes. Indeed, though the constituencies had, as we have seen, by great majorities supported and approved the foreign policy of Lord Palmerston, and rejected some of the most advanced and thorough-going reformers, they had on the whole supported men who on this question were disposed to go farther than Lord Palmerston, whom Mr. Disraeli, with something of truth, described as 'the Tory chief of a Radical Cabinet;'* so that the question of

* Lord Palmerston might have retorted by designating Mr. Disraeli as the Radical chief of a Tory party.

parliamentary reform seemed likely to be a greater difficulty in the new parliament than it had been in the old, unless the premier should show more willingness than he had hitherto done seriously to entertain the question.

From these political struggles we may turn for a moment to contemplate the condition of a class of persons for whom parliament was imperatively called on to legislate, and who more than any other needed and had a claim to its interference to lift them out of the filth, the corruption, the moral, intellectual and physical degradation in which they were sunk. Dr. Letheby had been appointed to inquire into their condition; and the report that he gave revealed a state of things on which we may congratulate ourselves that, if not entirely removed, it has at least been greatly ameliorated. The doctor visited 2208 rooms in the eastern district of the city of London, inhabited by beggers, vagrants, thieves, prostitutes, persons unable to obtain work, or doing work that was miserably remunerated. Of these rooms, 219 were uninhabited at the time of his inspection; the remaining 1989 contained 5791 inmates, belonging to 1576 families. In many instances Dr. Letheby found adults of both sexes belonging to different families lodged in the same room, 'regardless,' as he forcibly puts it, 'of all the common decencies of life; and where from three to five adults, men and women, besides a train of children, are accustomed to herd together like brute beasts, or savages; where all the offices of nature are performed in the most public and offensive manner, and where every human instinct of propriety and decency is smothered. Like my predecessor, I have seen grown persons of both sexes sleeping in common with their parents; brothers and sisters and cousins, and even the casual acquaintance of a day's tramp, occupying the same bed of filthy rags or straw; a woman suffering in travail in the midst of males and females of different families that tenant the same room—where birth and death go hand in hand—where the child but newly born, the patient cast down with fever, and the corpse waiting

for interment, have no separation from each other and from the rest of the inmates.' These horrors Dr. Letheby declared not to be at all exceptional. He cited other instances of the dreadful state of degradation which his examinations revealed. In Rose-alley, near Houndsditch, he found a row of houses, all in a shockingly dirty and ruinous condition, in which were seventy-six rooms, letting for sums varying from fifteen pence to twenty-one pence each, and inhabited by sixty-three families, consisting of two hundred and fifty-two persons. In one room there were a man, two women, two children, and the corpse of a girl who, having died in childbirth a few days before his visit, was still lying on the bare ground without shroud or coffin. Of course, it was a hotbed of every kind of loathsome and infectious disease. Only a short time before Dr. Letheby paid his visit to Rose-alley a fever had passed from room to room, attacking almost every one of the adult males who occupied these pestiferous dens. He stated that he found the air so close and infectious that he endeavoured to ascertain, by chemical analysis, whether it did not contain some peculiar product of decomposition, that imparted to it its foul odour and its rare power of engendering disease. He found that it was not only deficient in oxygen, but contained three times the usual proportion of carbonic acid, besides a quantity of aqueous vapour charged with alkaline matter, that stank abominably, the product of putrefaction, and of various fetid and stagnant exhalations.

He likewise pointed out that the horrors which his researches had brought to light were pregnant not only with terrible physical, but with terrible moral retribution to the society in which they were permitted to flourish, showing that a still deadlier moral pestilence stalks side by side with the physical pestilence, blighting the existence of a rising population, rendering their hearts hopeless, their acts ruffianly and incestuous, and causing them to scatter the seeds of crime, turbulence, and pauperism.

The remedies that Dr. Letheby suggested for these evils were to enforce the registration of common lodging-houses, and to control, through officers of health, the number and condition of their inmates. Another suggestion was that of bringing the metropolis under the control of a single municipality, elected by the ratepayers of the various districts. The state of things thus brought to light was by no means peculiar to London. Similar dens of filth and iniquity were to be found in many parts of Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dublin, and indeed in most of the large, as well as in many of the smaller towns of the British empire. There can be no doubt, too, that the attention which was drawn to the subject at this time by Dr. Letheby's reports had produced a considerable improvement, and that many of these human sties have been removed and improved. Lord Palmerston devoted to the work of cleansing this Augean stable the same vigour and energy that he had displayed in carrying on the war; and if such scenes as Dr. Letheby described have become almost exceptional in our day we owe it in great measure to the firmness and resolution with which Lord Palmerston took up the question, and for which, more perhaps than for anything else he ever did, he deserved the gratitude of posterity. A great work was done by him: but though he removed the more glaring evils, much remains to be done, and is being done, not only through direct legislation on this subject—though by that much has been effected—but by the extension to all classes of the community of an education which will instigate and enable them to rise out of degradation similar to that which Dr. Letheby so vividly depicted to his horrified countrymen.

On Thursday, April the 30th, the new parliament assembled, and Mr. Evelyn Denison, the nominee of the government, was chosen without opposition to be the speaker of the House of Commons. The formal opening of the legislature took place on the Thursday following, by commission, the interval having as usual been spent in swearing in the members and other pre-

liminary formalities. During that interval the Art-Treasures Exhibition in Manchester had been publicly opened. The scope and object of the exhibition is sufficiently indicated by its name. The building which contained the treasures intended for exhibition was constructed on a plan suggested by the Crystal Palace; and, considering the difference in size of the two buildings, was not unworthy of its great model. Prince Albert had promised to preside at the opening ceremony; but the death of the Duchess of Gloucester, one of the Queen's aunts, which happened a day or two before the ceremony, would, according to the usual rules of court etiquette, have prevented him from fulfilling the engagement into which he had entered. Nevertheless he did fulfil it; and in doing so stated his conviction that in attending he was acting in accordance with what he was sure would have been the wish of the deceased lady herself. This sensible conduct prevented a great disappointment, which would have damped an undertaking eminently deserving of royal patronage and encouragement, and the great humanizing objects of which no one more cordially appreciated or more zealously promoted than the prince himself.

The articles exhibited were arranged in seven principal sections: 1. Paintings by ancient masters. 2. Paintings by modern masters. 3. British portrait-gallery. 4. Sculpture. 5. Museum of ornamental art. 6. Water-colour drawings. 7. Historical miniatures. This artistic, scientific, and historical arrangement shows the immense progress that Manchester had made in culture and civilization since the period at which this work commences. That progress also extended to the numerous and populous towns and districts which were intimately connected with Manchester by the trade they carried on with and through the emporium of the manufacturing districts, and which had recently been brought into more rapid and frequent communication with it by the network of railways—converging from all quarters on the great manufacturing metropolis. The exhibition

conduced in no slight degree to carry forward that civilizing advance of which it was a conspicuous evidence.

The part taken by Prince Albert in the opening ceremony of the Manchester Exhibition was by no means the only proof given by him about this time of a deep and intelligent interest in everything calculated to raise and elevate the nation. The same feeling was manifested by the part he took in an educational conference held at Willis's Rooms, over the deliberations of which he presided, and by doing so obtained for the important subject which the conference assembled to discuss a degree of attention that it would not otherwise have secured. It was a sign of the times to see a prince taking part in a meeting held for such a purpose; and assuredly Prince Albert showed on this, as on so many other occasions, a delicate appreciation of the nature and duties of his position as consort of the Queen, not only in what he did and said, but also in what he abstained from doing and saying. His introductory speech was valuable, not only on account of the sanction it gave to the inquiry that the conference had assembled to make, but also on account of the enlightened views it contained.

'We find,' said the prince, 'on the one hand the wish to see secular and religious teaching separated, and the former recognized as an intimate and inherent right to which each member of society has a claim, and which ought not to be denied to him if he refuses to take along with it the inculcation of a particular dogma, to which he objects as unsound; while we see on the other hand the doctrine asserted that no education can be sound which does not rest on religious instruction, and that religious truth is too sound to be modified and tampered with, even in its minutest deductions, for the sake of procuring a general agreement.' A burst of loud assenting cheers here showed that the latter part of this statement expressed the views and opinions of the great majority of those present. 'Gentlemen,' proceeded the prince, 'if these differences were to have been discussed here to-day, I should not have been able to respond

to your invitation to take the chair, as I should have thought it inconsistent with the position which I occupy, and with the duty I owe to the Queen and the country at large. I see those here before me who have taken a leading part in these important discussions; and I am happy to meet them on a neutral ground, happy to find that there is a neutral ground on which their varied talents and abilities can be brought to bear in communion upon the common object, and proud and grateful to them that they should have allowed me to preside over them, for the purpose of working together in the common vineyard. I feel that the greatest benefit must arise to the cause we have all so much at heart by the mere free exchange of your thoughts and various experience. You may well be proud, gentlemen, of the results achieved by your rival efforts, and may point to the fact that since the beginning of the century, while the population has doubled itself, the number of schools, both public and private, has been multiplied fourteen times. In 1801 there were in England and Wales of public schools 2876; of private schools 487; total 3363. In 1851, the year of the census, there were in England and Wales of public schools 15,518; of private schools 30,524; total 46,042: giving instruction in all to 2,144,378 scholars, of whom 1,422,982 belong to public schools. The rate of progress is farther illustrated by statistics, which show that in 1818 the proportion of day-scholars to the population was one in seventeen; in 1833 one in eleven; and in 1851 one in eight. These are great results, although I hope that they may be received as instalments of what has yet to be done. But what must be your feelings when you reflect on the fact, the inquiry into which has brought us together, that this great boon thus obtained for the mass of the people, and which is freely offered to them, should have been only partially accepted, and, upon the whole, so insufficiently applied as to render it almost valueless? We are told that the total population in England and Wales of children between the ages of three and fifteen being estimated at 4,908,696, only 2,046,848

attend school at all, while 2,861,848 receive no instruction whatever. At the same time an analysis of the scholars with reference to the length of time allowed for their school tuition shows that 45 per cent. of them have been at school less than one year; 22 per cent. during one year; 15 per cent. during two years; 9 per cent. during three years; 5 per cent. during four years; and 4 per cent. during five years. Therefore, out of the 2,046,848 scholars alluded to, about 1,500,000 remain only two years at school. I leave it to you to judge what the results of such an education can be. I find farther, that of these 2,000,000 children who attend school, only about 600,000 are of the age of nine. Gentlemen, these are startling facts, which render it evident that no extension of the means of education will be of any avail unless this evil, which lies at the root of the whole question, be removed, and that it is high time that the country should become thoroughly awake to its existence, and prepared to meet it energetically. To impress this upon the public mind is the object of our conference. Public opinion is the powerful lever which in these days moves a people for good and for evil; and to public opinion we must therefore appeal, if we would achieve any lasting or beneficial result. You, gentlemen, will greatly add to the services which you have already rendered to this noble cause, if you will prepare public opinion by your inquiry into this state of things, and by your discussing in your sections the causes of it, as well as the remedies that may lie within our reach. This will be no easy matter; but even if your labours should not result in the adoption of any immediate practical steps, you will have done great good in preparing for them. It will probably happen that in this instance, as in most others, the cause that produces the evil will be more easily detected than its remedy; and yet a just appreciation of the former must ever be the first and essential condition of the discovery of the latter. You will probably trace the cause of our social condition to a state of ignorance

and lethargic indifference on the subject among the parents generally; but the root of the evil will, I suspect, also be found to extend into that field upon which the political economist exercises his activity—I mean the labour-market, demand and supply. To dissipate that ignorance and rouse from that lethargy may be difficult; but with the united and earnest efforts of all who are the friends of the working classes, it ought, after all, to be only a question of time. What measures can be brought to bear on the other root of the evil is a more delicate question, and will require the nicest care in handling; for there you cut into the very quick of the working men's condition. His children are not only his offspring to be reared for a future independent position, but they constitute a part of his productive power, and work with him for the staff of life. The daughters especially are the handmaids of the house, the assistants of the mother, the nurses of the younger children, the aged, the sick. To deprive the labouring family of their help would be almost to paralyze its domestic existence. On the other hand, carefully-collected statistics reveal to us the fact, that while 600,000 children between the ages of three and fifteen are absent from school, but known to be employed, no less than 2,200,000 are not at school, whose absence cannot be traced to any ascertained employment, or other legitimate cause. You will have to work, then, on the minds and hearts of the parents; to place before them the irreparable mischief which they inflict on those who are intrusted to their care by keeping them from the light of knowledge; to bring home to their convictions that it is their duty to exert themselves for their children's education; bearing in mind at the same time that it is not only their most sacred duty, but also their highest privilege. Unless they work with you, your work, our work, will be vain; but you will not fail, I feel sure, in obtaining their co-operation, if you remind them of their duty to their God and Creator.'

The business of the meeting having been thus inaugurated

was distributed amongst five sections, by which different departments of the general subject of education were discussed.

It is now time that we should follow the proceedings of the parliament which had been so recently elected, and whose session was opened by commission on the 7th of May. Of course, meeting at so late a period of the year, and not being able to proceed to business till the middle of that month it could not be expected to enter on the consideration of measures that were likely to require long discussions or to encounter serious opposition. The only subject of importance which was recommended to the attention of the legislature in the royal speech was the question of law reform—a question the urgency and importance of which it was impossible to overrate, but one that was not calculated to rouse strong feelings or cause prolonged debates. Lord Palmerston, however, announced that the government intended to bring forward a measure of parliamentary reform in the year 1858.

The most important legislative achievement effected during the session was the passing of a divorce bill, which was at length carried, in spite of the persistent opposition offered to it by Mr. Gladstone. The question had occupied the attention of the legislature for many years, and it would probably have continued to occupy it for some time longer, if the measure brought in by the government in the course of this session had not been zealously pressed forward by the premier, to whose firmness and determination it was due that the bill was at last carried. Notwithstanding all his efforts, it was at one time in great jeopardy. It was ready to go back to the Lords with the amendments of the Commons on Friday, the 21st of August, and Lord Redesdale had given notice of a motion that it should be considered that day three months, which would of course have the effect of throwing it out altogether. At that late period most of the peers had left London, and it was thought that the members of the government and their adherents who remained in town would form a sufficiently large body to carry

the bill through. But a great effort had been made by its opponents to defeat it; and a large number of conservative peers were brought back to town on the day on which Lord Redesdale's motion was to be considered. The opposition benches were filled; while the ministerial side of the house presented a very denuded appearance. There could be no doubt that the opponents of the bill were in the majority. Ministers therefore moved an adjournment without mentioning the bill. Lord Redesdale, who saw that he had the game in his own hands, and did not wish to let slip the favourable opportunity, vehemently protested against the adoption of this course. Lord Chancellor Cranworth, generally the mildest and most placid of men, flamed up with vehement indignation when he saw that the one ministerial achievement of the session was about to be lost. After a somewhat heated discussion, an adjournment to the following Monday was agreed to by both sides, when ministers managed to muster a sufficient number of followers to enable them to reject Lord Redesdale's motion by a majority of two only.

Two other important measures passed in this session, the credit due to which belongs, however, not to the government but to Lord Chief Justice Campbell; one suggested by the trial of Palmer, and regulating the sale of poisons; the other for the prevention of the diffusion of the moral poison of obscene publications. Another attempt made to obtain the admission of Jews into the House of Commons was once again frustrated by the peers. On the 28th of August the legislature was prorogued by commission, but before the conclusion of the session, intelligence of a very alarming character had from time to time been arriving from India. The government had determined to supply the Sepoy regiments of that country with rifles of an improved description, in the place of the old musket which had hitherto been in use. The new rifle was loaded with a greased cartridge, the end of which was bitten off by the soldier making use of it. The sepoys suspected that the grease

was made of the fat of cows and pigs, animals held in abomination by the Mahometans and Hindoos, the latter of whom would lose caste if they swallowed the smallest particle of the alleged mixture. The feeling thus roused had been farther exasperated by some indiscreet attempts at conversion made, or supposed to be made, under the sanction of the government. It was, indeed, strenuously asserted that these suspicions were not really entertained by the sepoys; but that they were mere pretexts employed to excuse a revolt, which was in fact the result of a deep-laid and wide-spread combination against the British authority; and there is good reason to believe, as we shall presently see, that a strong spirit of disaffection prevailed very widely among the native troops, which was encouraged by the removal of a large portion of the English force from India to take a part in the Chinese war. The first open manifestation of the feeling that prevailed was made at Barrackpore. As early as the 23rd of January, Major-General Hearsay, who commanded there, informed the government of the reports with regard to the cartridges among the sepoys at Dumdum, near Calcutta. A fortnight later a sepoy soldier informed the officers at Barrackpore that the men of four of the regiments stationed there had been made to believe that there was a design to compel them to give up their caste and to become Christians, and that in consequence they had determined to mutiny. On the 25th of February the soldiers, on receiving the usual order to bite off the ends of their cartridges, refused to comply with it. General Hearsay harangued his troops in their own language, which he spoke fluently, assuring them that the government had no wish to shock their religious convictions, but, on the contrary, desired to treat them with respect and allow them full freedom of belief. His explanations appeared, at the time, to have produced their intended effect. But on the day following the sepoys broke into the huts in which their arms were kept, and took possession of them. The only troops at the station when this occurred were some cavalry and a battery of artillery.

These were sent out at night against the mutineers. It was doubtful whether they could be depended on, and even more doubtful whether, if they acted with all possible vigour and fidelity, they could subdue the revolters. Under these circumstances the commanding officer deemed it best to submit to a somewhat ignominious compromise. However, the Indian government acted with a promptitude which, for the present, stopped the farther spread of the revolt. British troops and artillery were dispatched to Barrackpore, the mutinous regiments were disbanded, and it was hoped that the danger had passed. This hope might perhaps have been realized but for one of those acts of folly and negligence by which our Indian empire has often been jeopardized. The government had ordered that the practice of biting the cartridges, which had so alarmed the religious prejudices of the native troops, should be discontinued; but, notwithstanding this order, the practice was still enforced in some cases, and this naturally increased the suspicions and discontent of the native soldiery, and soon produced such consequences as might have been anticipated.

On the 2nd of May, the 7th Oude irregular cavalry, stationed near Lucknow, when commanded to bite their cartridges, refused to obey the order, and communicated their discontent to the sepoys stationed at Lucknow. As soon as the news of this mutiny reached Sir Henry Lawrence, who commanded the troops in that part of India, he marched against the mutineers with his whole disposable force. They were at once disarmed; and most of the native officers, and those of the privates who were known to have taken a leading part in the acts of insubordination that had been committed, were dismissed. At Meerut a mutiny broke out a few days after, and, being encountered with less vigour and decision, became more formidable. In this station the new regulation had, indeed, been acted on, but it was too late then to remove the suspicions of the sepoys. When the men were ordered to tear their cartridges, instead of

biting them, they refused to touch them. The recusants were apprehended, tried by court-martial, and imprisoned; but, though there were several indications of a disaffected spirit among the troops, no farther steps were taken. All, however, passed quietly till the morning of Sunday the 10th. A conspiracy had been formed among the sepoys to attack our troops while they were attending divine service in the afternoon, when most of them would have been unarmed. Fortunately the impatience of the mutineers caused them to break out into mutiny before the troops had gone to church, so that the intended surprise was not effected. However, one party galloped to the gaol, and liberated the prisoners who were confined there. Colonel Finnis, while remonstrating with the mutineers, was shot by them. Then they broke out into unrestrained violence. The dwellings of the Europeans were fired, and every man, woman, or child that fell into their hands was savagely butchered. In these acts of violence the native troops were supported and aided by their countrymen at Meerut. All this was done in the immediate vicinity of an English force strong enough, if properly handled, to have annihilated the mutineers. But the poor old general who commanded at this station was unable to act with the vigour that the circumstances required. However, the troops were brought up. They charged the mutineers, pouring on them a fire of grape and musketry, which compelled them to retire in confusion. Had they been properly pursued, they might have been arrested in their flight; as it was, they were followed for some distance by the carabineers, who killed many of them. Those who escaped made their way to Delhi, and entered that city. They were joined by the native troops there, and became undisputed masters of the city, where they practised frightful atrocities, sparing neither sex nor age, treating women with the most shocking indecency and cruelty, and tossing the children on their bayonets before the eyes of their agonized mothers. A handful of Europeans, who garrisoned the magazine of the city, defended it to the last ex-

tremity and then blew it up, and with it a large number of the mutineers. The ex-king of Delhi, who was still permitted to reside in his ancient capital, readily consented to resume his royal dignity and to put himself at the head of the revolt; and if he did not actually sanction the murder of the Europeans, he made no attempt to prevent them from being slaughtered. His eldest son was appointed commander-in-chief of the rebel forces.

Their success, which was greatly exaggerated, caused the rebellion to spread throughout Bengal, and necessitated the reconquest of that vast territory. At Lahore, the chief commissioner, having at his disposal a force of only eight hundred and fifty men, of whom he could only employ a portion, disarmed 3500 sepoys, and by this act of firmness prevented them joining their revolted comrades. In some places the disarmament of the sepoys was carried out with equal resolution and success. In others, either from the incapacity of the officer in command, or for want of a sufficient European force to support his authority, the disarmament was not effected. Wherever the mutineers were successful, they were guilty of the same horrible brutalities that had attended their triumph at Delhi; not only officers and soldiers, but also civilians of all sexes and ages, being put to death in the most savage manner, and that too, frequently, in disregard of distinct and solemn stipulations.

The Indian government lost no time in despatching all the troops that could be spared to besiege the rebellious city; and a few days later the governor-general issued a proclamation, in which he contradicted the reports that had been circulated to the effect that the government intended to interfere with the religion of the natives or with the institution of caste, which formed a part of the Hindoo system of belief. This proclamation was followed by another issued by Sir J. R. Colvin, the governor of the north-western provinces of our Indian empire. In it he promised the rebellious sepoys that,

if they would give up their arms at the nearest civil or military post, and retire quietly to their homes, they should not be molested; but it at the same time announced that all who appeared in arms, after the contents of this proclamation had been made known to them, should be treated as open enemies. This document was vehemently censured as being dictated by an excessive and mistimed leniency, and was disavowed by the government at Calcutta. It is difficult for those who are remote from the scene of action to form a correct opinion on the subject, and it may therefore seem presumptuous to express one. But it certainly does appear to be just and politic to allow the sepoys, many of whom had been reluctantly forced into rebellion by their comrades, or who had been carried away by an honest though mistaken fanaticism, an opportunity of retracing their steps, and retiring from the rebellion. And we would venture to doubt whether the governor was not wiser than the civil and military personages who condemned his conduct; or whether, as sometimes occurs, the subordinate officer was not superior in wisdom and intelligence to those who were placed over him. Be this as it may, the proclamations that had been issued did not prevent the rebellion from spreading rapidly. A portion of the newly-annexed kingdom of Oude had already revolted, and Sir H. Lawrence, who commanded there, was at this critical moment suffering from severe illness. However, he put forth his best efforts to meet the danger. As a mutiny of the native troops was evidently impending, he fortified and provisioned the residency; and as soon as he was sufficiently recovered to place himself at the head of his troops, he marched out against a body of the rebels stationed at a place called Chinhut; but finding them to be in greater numbers than he had expected, he was compelled to retire. This retreat was followed by the mutiny of the native troops at Lucknow, who had hitherto held aloof from the revolt. They were at once attacked by a part of the 32nd regiment, and artillery having been brought to bear on them,

they were driven to Moodripore, where they were joined by another sepoy regiment.

While the handful of English in Lucknow were thus imperilled, the position of those at Cawnpore was even more critical. Nana Sahib, the chief of Bithoor, resided near that place, and had a considerable native force under his command. He was crafty, savage, covetous, and ambitious; but by education and constant association with English officers and civilians he had acquired a degree of refinement rarely attained by his countrymen at that time, and was often pointed out as a person zealously attached to the British government, and a favourable specimen of the highly-polished and cultivated Hindoo. It is not improbable that he hesitated a good deal before he determined which side he should take. Inclination and interest prompted him to promote the success of his countrymen, by contributing to which an almost boundless prospect was opened to his ambition; but his superior attainments made him better acquainted with the greatness of the British resources, and enabled him to estimate more correctly than most of his countrymen the arduous character of the struggle in which they were engaged. Whatever, therefore, his secret inclinations may have been, he openly showed himself the ally of the British, and sent troops to their assistance, placing them under General Wheeler, who commanded at Cawnpore. These troops were unfortunately employed to defend the treasury, which was well replenished, and, moreover, close to the magazine, which was strongly fortified, and might easily have been defended against any force that the rebels could have brought against it. General Wheeler, with the force under his command, and most of the residents, retired to a retrenchment which was far less defensible. Whether Nana Sahib had ever intended that the soldiers he had sent to Cawnpore should really help us may well be doubted. At all events, they joined their revolted countrymen, plundered the treasury they had been appointed to guard, and attempted to take possession of the magazine,

which was blown up by Sir H. Wheeler's orders, that it might not fall into their hands. Then Nana Sahib threw off the mask, and putting himself at the head of the revolted troops, commenced an attack on the entrenchment, which Sir H. Wheeler prepared to defend as well as he could against an immensely superior force, well supplied with all kinds of arms and ammunition. He despatched several applications for aid to Sir H. Lawrence, assuring him that if he could only have a reinforcement of two hundred men, he could sally out on the besiegers and capture their guns. But Sir H. Lawrence was himself too hard pressed to be able to spare a single man. In the end, Wheeler was obliged to surrender, but the terms of the capitulation were completely disregarded. The soldiers were treacherously murdered almost to a man. The women and children, imprisoned for the present, were reserved for a more terrible fate.

Meanwhile the siege of Delhi was carried on, up to the 14th of September, on which day our troops blew open with gunpowder the Cashmere gate, and forced their way into the city. Still the rebels continued to make an obstinate resistance. On the 15th our troops, having got possession of some liquor, intoxicated themselves to such a degree that it became doubtful whether it would not be necessary to evacuate the city, and retire to the position that had been occupied outside it. However, the liquor was destroyed, and the enemy, not being aware of the condition to which our men were reduced, made no attack. When the intoxication had passed away, order was restored, and the operations for the reduction of the rest of the city were pushed forward. On the 20th of September all resistance had been overcome, and the British were undisputed masters of the city, which had been for four months in the possession of the rebels.

Meanwhile the greatest anxiety prevailed with regard to our countrymen and countrywomen at Lucknow and Cawnpore. The Indian government made every effort to relieve them;

but the reinforcements which had been despatched from England and China came in slowly, and the demands made for assistance far exceeded the means at the disposal of the government. At this conjuncture Sir Henry Lawrence died from the effects of a wound caused by the bursting of a shell. His death was a great calamity, and rendered the position of the British at Lucknow more critical than ever. Before his decease he desired that this modest epitaph should be placed on his tomb: 'Here lies Sir Henry Lawrence, who tried to do his duty.' The task of relieving the city was entrusted to the heroic General Havelock, who marched out with a mere handful of men, of whom only 1400 were British soldiers, to encounter a large army and a whole country in rebellion. At Futtehpore on the 12th of July, he defeated a vastly superior force, posted in a very strong position. After giving his men a day's rest, he advanced again on the 14th, and routed the enemy in two pitched battles. Next morning he renewed his advance, and with a force of less than 900 men attacked 5000 strongly entrenched, and commanded by Nana Sahib. They were outmanœuvred, outflanked, beaten and dispersed. But for this signal defeat they wreaked their vengeance on the unfortunate women and children who still remained at Cawnpore. On the very day on which the battle occurred, they were massacred under circumstances of cruelty over which we must throw a veil. The well of Cawnpore, in which their hacked and mutilated bodies were flung, presented a spectacle from which soldiers who had regarded unmoved the carnage of numerous battle-fields shrank with horror. Of all the atrocities perpetrated during this war, so fruitful in horrors, this was the most awful; and it was followed by a terrible retribution. It steeled the hearts, and lent a furious and fearless energy to the arms, of the British soldiery. Wherever they came, they gave no quarter to the mutineers; a few men often frantically attacked hundreds, frantically but vainly defending themselves; and never ceased till all had been bayoneted, or shot

or hewn in pieces. All those who could be shown to have been accomplices in the perpetration of the murders that had been committed were hung, or blown from the cannon's mouth.

Though the intrepid Havelock was unable to save the women and children who had been imprisoned in Cawnpore, he pressed forward to Lucknow. But the force under his command was too small to enable him to drive off the enemy. Meanwhile Sir J. Outram, who was now returning from the Persian war, which had been brought to a successful conclusion, was sent to Oude as chief commissioner, with full civil and military power. This appointment was fully deserved; but it had the effect, probably not thought of by those who made it, of superseding Havelock just as he was about to achieve the crowning success of his rapid and glorious career. Outram, however, with a generosity which did him more real honour than a thousand victories would have conferred, wrote to Havelock to inform him that he intended to join him with adequate reinforcements; adding: 'To you shall be left the glory of relieving Lucknow, for which you have already struggled so much. I shall accompany you only in my civil capacity as commissioner, placing my military service at your disposal, should you please, and serving under you as a volunteer.' Thus Havelock, after gaining no fewer than twelve battles against forces far superior in numbers to the little band he originally led, was enabled at length, on the 25th of August, to preserve the civilians, the women, and children of Lucknow from the impending horrors of another massacre, which would no doubt have been as fearful as that of Cawnpore. The Highlanders were the first to enter, and were welcomed with grateful enthusiasm by those whom they had saved from a fate worse than death. However, the enemy, recovering from the panic which the arrival of Havelock and his troops had caused, renewed the siege. Sir Colin Campbell, who had assumed the command of the Indian army, had determined to march to the relief of Lucknow. He set out from Cawnpore on the 9th of

November, but was obliged to wait till the 14th for reinforcements, which were on the way to join him, and which raised the force under his command to 5000—a force numerically far inferior to that which it was to attack. On the 17th of November the relief of Lucknow was effected. The music of the Highland regiments, playing 'The Campbells are coming,' announced to their delighted countrymen inside the city that the commander-in-chief himself was with the relieving force. Little time, however, was allowed for congratulations and rejoicings. The ladies, the civilians, and the garrison were quietly withdrawn; the guns, which it was thought not desirable to remove, were burst; and a retreat effected, without affording the enemy the slightest suspicion of what was going on until some hours after the town had been evacuated by its defenders. The retreating force reached Dilkoosha on the 24th, without having sustained any serious molestation. There the gallant Havelock sank under the trials and hardships to which he had been exposed, and yielded up the life which was instrumental in preserving so many others from the most terrible of deaths.

While Sir Colin Campbell was engaged in effecting the relief of Lucknow, intelligence reached Cawnpore that a large hostile army was marching towards it. General Windham, who commanded there, unacquainted with the number or the position of the approaching force, went forth to meet it, in the hope that he should be able to rout and cut up the advanced guard before the main body of the enemy could come to its assistance. But in this expectation he was disappointed. Instead of having to deal with the van, he found himself engaged with the whole rebel army, and his little force, assailed on all sides, was obliged to retire. He at once despatched a letter to the commander-in-chief, requesting him to hasten to his assistance; but it was intercepted by the enemy. Fortunately Sir Colin Campbell, though ignorant of the critical position of his subordinate, came up just at the moment when the danger was at

its height. This was on the 28th of November. He was, however, in no haste to attack the foe, and was content for the present merely to hold them in check. His first care was for the safety of the civilians, the women, and the children, which was not secured till the 30th; and he continued to protect them till the 5th of December, when they were all safely lodged at Allahabad. The enemy, unaware of the motive of his seeming inaction, imputed it to fear, and became every day more confident and audacious. On the 6th he at length turned fiercely on them, completely defeated them, and seized their baggage; he then dispersed and drove away another large force, under the command of Nana Sahib, which was watching the engagement at a little distance. The army entered the residence of Nana Sahib at Bithoor, and took possession of much treasure, which had been concealed in a well. Nearly the whole of the enemy's artillery was captured; and the army, being overtaken as they were in the act of crossing into Oude, great numbers of them were destroyed. Of course, for the moment Lucknow, being no longer garrisoned, had fallen into the hands of the insurgents; but they were not long permitted to retain it. Strong reinforcements arrived, and the Indian government was enabled to send a force against Lucknow sufficient to overwhelm all resistance; and on the 15th of December this important city was in the undisputed possession of the British troops. This final recovery of the capital of Oude decided the reconquest of that country. A struggle was, indeed, maintained for some time longer; innumerable battles were fought; and the final subjugation of the country was effected in the month of June, 1858, when Sir H. Rose issued the following general order, which gives a just and striking *résumé* of the operations of the campaign, which ended in the complete restoration of the British authority in India:

'Soldiers, you have marched more than a thousand miles, and taken more than a hundred guns. You have forced your way through mountain passes and intricate jungles, and over

rivers; you have captured the strongest forts, and beat the enemy, no matter what the odds, wherever you met them; you have restored extensive districts to the government, and peace and order now reign where before for twelve months were tyranny and rebellion: you have done all this, and you have never had a check. I thank you with all sincerity for your bravery, your devotion, and your discipline. When you first marched, I told you that you, as British soldiers, had more than enough of courage for the work which was before you, but that courage without discipline was of no avail; and I exhorted you to let discipline be your watchword. You have attended to my orders. In hardships, in temptations, and in dangers you have obeyed your general, and you have never left your ranks. You have fought against the strong, and you have protected the rights of the weak and defenceless, of foes as well as friends: I have seen you in the ardour of the combat preserve and place children out of harm's way. This is the discipline of Christian soldiers, and this it is that has brought you triumphant from the shores of Western India to the waters of the Jumna, and establishes without doubt that you will find no place to equal the glory of your arms.'

There was, indeed, after the issue of this order, a momentary renewal of the struggle; a large body of the defeated rebels in their retreat from Culpee had captured Gwalior and deposed Scindia, who throughout the whole of the revolt had steadily adhered to the British. He now fled to Agra, being unable to withstand this unexpected deluge; but the arrival of the British troops in pursuit of the invaders soon put an end to their brief triumph; and Scindia re-entered his capital on the twentieth day of the same month in which he had been driven out of it.

When the news of the mutiny began to reach England, it was generally received with that *insouciance* which has almost always been displayed with regard to the affairs of the vast and important part of our empire in which it occurred. It was assumed that the outbreaks had been suppressed, or easily

would be; and that the next mail or telegram would announce their complete extinction, and the condign punishment of those who had taken part in them. Few, indeed, were aware of the real gravity of the crisis. And when the mutiny had grown into a revolt, and the revolt into a rebellion, the feeling was still the same; a feeling of perhaps overweening confidence in the force and fortune of England. When one sepoy regiment after another was joining the rebellion; when at one post after another the Europeans were massacred or driven away; when mail after mail brought home news that Delhi was still holding out, that Lucknow was still beleaguered, and that a gigantic effort was being made by the natives of a great portion of India to chase the handful of English out of their country; and above all, when accounts of the more and more frightful atrocities practised on our countrymen and countrywomen reached our shores, then a very different feeling arose; not a feeling of fear —for throughout the whole of this critical struggle the English people never realized the greatness of the danger that threatened our government of India—but a cry for vengeance, and an urgent demand that all the resources of the nation should be put forth to maintain our authority and inflict condign punishment on the perpetrators of the crimes that had been committed. These feelings were rendered all the more intense, and these demands all the more loud and imperious, by the terrors and anxieties of the numerous families having relatives or friends in India, who did not know whether they had not already fallen, or might not be the next victims of the ferocity of the revolted sepoys.

While this excitement of the public mind was at its height, the subject of the Indian rebellion was brought before the House of Commons by Mr. Disraeli. It was on Monday the 25th of July that his motion was made, and the interest with which the debate was regarded was intensified by the circumstance that the public mind was in a state of feverish impatience for the arrival of the Indian mail, which was already several days overdue. Mr. Disraeli's motion was for papers; but he

delivered a three hours' speech, which he concluded by recommending that a royal commission should instantly be sent to India to examine into the grievances of the natives; that a proclamation should be issued declaring that the Queen would not sanction the violation of treaties, or the disturbance of property, and that she would respect the laws, customs, and usages of the natives of India. Mr. Disraeli's motion gave an opportunity of entering into as full a discussion of the Indian question as was desirable at a moment when the whole energies of the government were, or should have been, concentrated on the object of suppressing the revolt as speedily as possible. Having served this purpose, the motion was not pressed to a division; and an amendment brought forward by Lord J. Russell for an address to her Majesty, assuring her of the cordial support of the house in any measure that might be necessary for the suppression of the disturbances, was unanimously adopted.

Although a motion, which was no doubt brought forward in a spirit of hostility to the government, ended in obtaining for it a unanimous vote, if not of confidence, at least of support, it cannot be denied that the government was chargeable with a very culpable disregard of the state of feeling that existed in India, and especially among the native troops. It might, indeed, be urged that the ignorance and indifference under which they laboured with regard to the most important concerns of our vast Indian empire only too faithfully represented the still greater ignorance and still profounder indifference with which almost all parties in the legislature and in the nation at large regarded the concerns of that vast empire which we had undertaken to govern; and that if our rulers were careless and ill-informed, the houses of parliament and the people generally were still more careless and still more uninformed. All the debates relating to this, the largest and most valuable portion of our possession, up to the time of which we are now writing, had been carried on in the most languid and indifferent manner, in thin houses, and amidst manifold indications of the ignorance

which prevailed on the subject, and the careless disregard, and even impatience, with which everything relating to India was received. It was indeed alleged, and alleged by some of the ministers themselves, that the mutiny was an occurrence which none could have foreseen, and against which, therefore, no provision could have been made. To show how far this was from being the case—to show that the mutiny was no sudden and accidental outbreak, but an event which had for some time past been coming on, to which the attention of the government of India had been drawn, and which it might have anticipated and prepared for—we need only refer to a pamphlet published by Colonel Hodgson at Meerut, the very cradle of the mutiny, in 1851, that is, full six years before the revolt broke out. In that pamphlet the writer proved that the admission of the priestly caste of Brahmins into the ranks of our Indian army, in spite of the positive prohibitions limiting their employment, was the occasion of engendering and fomenting discord and sedition among the native troops; aggravated by the promotion of native officers, which, as he pointed out, failed to animate them to a more zealous and conscientious execution of their professional obligations to the state. 'On all occasions of discontent and insubordinate caballing,' wrote the colonel, 'how very rare it is to see a native officer come forward in a firm and unequivocal manner to disclose what has come to his knowledge, and thereby to evince a becoming consciousness of the duty he owes to his own rank and to the government which conferred it. It would be the height of credulity to imagine the possibility of evil intention existing in the lines without his most entire cognition; and therefore, by failing in moral energy, he virtually becomes an accomplice, shrinking from the manly performance of his duty as a commissioned officer, which imperatively requires a prompt disclosure of such seditious designs. It is lamentable to know that, with his increased rank, he acquires not the slightest perception of his increased responsibility. He still remains in all his feelings and sentiments a

common soldier, and seldom assumes the moral tone of a commissioned officer.

Nor was this the only warning which had been given. The late General Sir Charles Napier, whose high and deserved military reputation gave great weight to his representations, had again and again vainly complained of the inferior character of many of the English officers by whom the native regiments were commanded. The remonstrances of this great soldier and general were thus supported and enforced by Colonel Hodgson:

'It is chiefly upon the zeal, loyalty, competency, and conciliatory deportment of the European officers that the efficiency and allegiance of the Sapahees must depend. The British officer of the native army must always look upon himself as a very closely-connected part of it; should he in the smallest degree alienate himself from the men, or in any way evince by his demeanour that their interests and professional honour are something distinct from his, or superciliously neglect to become acquainted with all the circumstances of those under his command, he is deficient in a most essential portion of his official qualifications. Unless he is familiar with all their habits and peculiarities, and properly mindful of their just rights and requirements, it is impossible that he can exercise any personal influence amidst trials and dangers, or prove capable of animating them during the arduous and trying scenes of war.'

How far many among them were from possessing these essential qualifications for command the colonel thus pointed out:

'The European subaltern officer of the native army too generally looks upon the performance of regimental duties as a task irksome, if not humiliating. He has very little ambition to acquire the character of a good regimental officer. He has scarcely joined the corps when his every effort is strained to quit it, so as to escape from what he is apt to pronounce drudgery and thraldom. . . . A wide chasm separates the European officer from his native comrade—a gulf in which the dearest

interests of the army may be entombed, unless a radical change of relations between the parties is introduced.'

But the causes of this terrible revolt were not military only; they were also religious. There can be no doubt that, whether it arose from carelessness and folly, or from a studied intention to insult the religious prejudices of the Indian soldiery, the suspicions entertained by the sepoys with regard to the greased cartridges were not altogether without foundation; and farther, that the efforts which were being made—with the sanction, or at least the apparent sanction, of the Indian government—to convert the natives to Christianity had produced a strong feeling among the Indian people, and especially among the Indian soldiers. The danger of these well-meant but often ill-judged attempts to proselytize had long before been pointed out by Sydney Smith, and they had not escaped the notice of Colonel Hodgson, but had been adverted to in the pamphlet which we have already cited, published, be it remembered, no less than six years before the mutiny broke out, or before there was any general suspicion of the slightest danger of such an occurrence.

'It is very clear,' wrote the colonel, 'that the great secret of our success has been a most judicious and careful avoidance of every act that would greatly alarm the religious and conventional prejudices of the natives of India, or call in question our national good faith.'

And so, too, the great cause of the present misfortune had been the impression—that there was an intention to use the influence which belonged to the government in order to force the English religion, as well as the English rule, on the natives, and especially on the native soldiers.

But however much the Indian and the English governments might be blamed for not having given their attention to the danger that existed before the storm arose, they at all events showed no want of energy or activity in meeting it now that it had at length burst forth. We have seen the promptitude with which Sir Colin Campbell was despatched to the scene

of action, and troops were sent after him; not indeed, with sufficient speed to satisfy the unreasonable impatience of the public, or to silence the complaints of the press, but as rapidly as the circumstances of the case and the suddenness of the emergency would allow. The French emperor at this time evinced his fidelity to the alliance he had formed with England, and the sincerity of his desire to maintain a cordial understanding with our government, not only by abstaining from any attempt to take advantage of the embarrassment caused to us by the necessity of sending off every disposable soldier to India, but by offering a passage through France to our troops, in order that they might more speedily arrive at their destination; an offer which, though not accepted by the English government, entitled him who made it to the grateful remembrance of the English people, and all the more so because, in making it, he sacrificed no small amount of popularity in the country which he governed, and in which at that moment there was a very strong desire to take advantage of the state of momentary defencelessness to which we were reduced by the Indian insurrection.

The Indian rebellion was certain to draw after it a very large measure of those internal evils which every great war produces. And these evils were the more acutely felt, because the country had scarcely recovered from the effects of the Crimean war. There was much depression of trade and manufactures, and great derangement of our monetary system—so great, in fact, as to threaten the stability of the Bank of England itself, and to render it necessary to take extraordinary measures in order to enable it to meet the demands made on it. Ministers, having been appealed to by the governors of the Bank, and made acquainted with the critical position in which they were placed, resolved, as the only means of avoiding a suspension of payment on the part of that establishment, to authorize a temporary violation of the bank charter as settled by the act of 1844, and to summon parliament in order

to obtain an indemnity. The announcement of this decision took the country by surprise, and the more so as parliament had a short time before been prorogued to a period which indicated an intention on the part of the government not to summon it for business before the usual time. The session was opened on the 3d of December, the Queen attending in person, and delivering a speech which contained the following clause, showing that the government had resolved to introduce farther measures for the reform of parliament during the coming session: 'Your attention will be called to the laws which regulate the representation of the people in parliament, with a view to consider what amendments may be safely and beneficially made therein.'

Seldom in the whole course of its history had the bank been placed in a more critical position. The provisions of the bank-charter act restricting the issue of notes had been found inexecutable, and were therefore suspended. The authority for this suspension was communicated in a letter addressed by the first lord of the Treasury to the governors of the Bank. The reason assigned for this step was the failure of certain mercantile and trading establishments, and the consequent withdrawal from circulation of a large amount of paper-money. But the true motive for the relaxation was the condition to which the Bank itself was reduced, which was such that, without the liberty thus afforded, it would have been unable to meet the demands made on it. On Wednesday, November 18th, when the accounts were made up, it appeared that there were in the Bank notes and gold to the value of 1,462,153*l.*, while the deposits that might at any time be drawn out amounted to 18,248,003*l.* On the following day the liabilities of the Bank were upwards of 4,000,000*l.* more than they had been in the preceding July, while its available resources were more than 4,000,000*l.* less than they had been at that time. If, therefore, the act of 1844 had been strictly carried out, the Bank must have failed. Under these circumstances the government sanc-

tioned the suspension of the act in this respect, and the Bank at once issued notes for 180,000*l.* more than the law permitted. Having done this necessary but illegal act, the government determined to hold a December session and ask parliament to indemnify them for their unavoidable violation of the law. This session lasted only eight days, and was terminated on the 11th of December by an adjournment to the 4th of February.

There were other events besides those we have recorded which render this year remarkable. While the great struggle was going on which was to determine whether India should be preserved or lost to England, the Social-Science Association was being founded, the South Kensington Museum established, the noble reading-room of the British Museum inaugurated, the Art-treasures Exhibition held at Manchester, and the first Handel festival at the Crystal Palace. Great efforts were being made to convey the electric telegraph across the Atlantic, which, though not successful, encouraged the hope of future success. The Leviathan or Great Eastern, by far the most gigantic steam-ship ever constructed, was brought to a completion; and though the attempts to launch her had not as yet succeeded, there was no reason to doubt that she would in the course of the next few months be floating in the element for which she was destined. Mr. Macaulay was raised to the peerage, and Mr. Bright elected member for Birmingham, during his absence from England through illness.

Parliament resumed its sittings on the day to which it had been adjourned. On the 12th of February the government introduced into the House of Commons a bill for the transfer of the government of India from the Company to the Crown; thus obeying the demands of public opinion, which required, especially since the recent rebellion, that the division of authority which had hitherto prevailed in the administration of that great and important possession should at once and for ever be put an end to. We will not enter into any examination of the details of the measure thus brought forward; for a speedy and

unexpected catastrophe caused it to be withdrawn shortly after its introduction, under circumstances to which it is necessary that we should briefly refer.

On the 14th of January a most determined attempt was made to assassinate the French emperor, as he was being driven to the opera with the empress and General Roguet. Just as the carriage in which they were riding entered the Rue Lepelletier, a bomb was thrown at it, which instantly exploded and killed twenty persons, without injuring the carriage or its occupants. Almost immediately after a second bomb was thrown, killing one of the horses, and consequently stopping the carriage. A third bomb burst immediately under the vehicle with a tremendous explosion; but though the carriage itself was almost blown to pieces, its occupants escaped with very trifling injuries. A man, who at the moment of the last explosion rushed forward with a dagger and a revolver to accomplish his murderous object, was seized by a *sergent de ville*, and apprehended after a violent struggle, in which his captor was wounded. Just before the attempt was made, a man named Pierri, a refugee who had recently entered France with a forged passport, was recognized and apprehended with a bomb in his possession similar to those that had been employed in the murderous attempt, as well as other arms. On the following morning Felix Orsini, who seems to have been the leader of this gang of assassins, was arrested. As these men had come from London, where they had made their preparations for this atrocious attempt, a great number of the French people felt hurt and indignant that, after an alliance so close and so loyal, after the recent sympathy manifested towards England at the time of the outbreak of the Indian war, we should harbour such a crew of villains, and allow the murderous weapons they employed to be constructed without taking steps to prevent this gross abuse of our hospitality. It was felt to be unjust that shelter should be afforded to the assassins of a friendly prince, which would not be afforded to the assassins of the meanest of his subjects. Accordingly Count Walewski, the

minister of foreign affairs at Paris, wrote to Count Persigny, the French ambassador at London, a letter, which strongly, but not too strongly, expressed the feeling with which the harbouring of such criminals was regarded by the French government and people. 'It is no longer,' he wrote, 'the hostility of misguided parties manifesting itself by all the excesses of the press, and every violence of language; it is no longer even the labour of factions seeking to agitate opinion and to provoke disorder; it is assassination reduced to a doctrine, preached openly, practised in repeated attempts, the most recent of which has struck Europe with stupefaction. Ought, then, the right of asylum to protect such a state of things? Is hospitality due to assassins? Shall English legislation serve to favour their designs and their manœuvres? and can it continue to protect persons who place themselves by flagrant acts without the pale of the common law?' Representations in accordance with the instructions thus conveyed were made to the English government by the French ambassador, and favourably received. Lord Palmerston and his colleagues resolved to bring into parliament a measure bearing on the subject; and in conformity with this determination Lord Palmerston, on the 9th of February, introduced a bill for the punishment of conspiracy to murder; and, though its introduction was strongly opposed by Mr. Kinglake, who moved an amendment, leave to bring in the bill was carried by a majority of 299 to 99. The measure, however, was brought forward under circumstances which strongly tended to rouse the passions of the English nation, and to prevent the bill from obtaining a calm and candid consideration. Addresses had been presented to the emperor from certain members of the French army, some of them holding the rank of colonel, which, while congratulating him on his wonderful escape, contained menaces but too well calculated to wound the susceptibility of the English people. One of these addresses spoke of them as the protectors of 'assassins surpassing those who had gone before them in all that was odious;' another stated that their indignation moved

them 'to demand an account of the land of impunity which contains the haunts of the monsters who are sheltered by its laws. Give us the order, sire, and we will pursue them even to their strongholds.' A third address was couched in these terms: 'Let the miserable assassins, the subordinate agents of such crimes, receive the chastisement due to their abominable attempts; but let also the infamous haunt in which machinations so infernal are planned be destroyed for ever.'

This martial balderdash would probably have been treated in England with the contempt it deserved, if it had not unfortunately been inserted in the *Moniteur*, the organ of the French government, and thus appeared to receive, to a certain extent, the stamp of the approbation of the French government. It was thought that the French were taking advantage of the critical position in which the Indian revolt had placed us, in order to coerce our government. The consequence was, that the spirit of this country was thoroughly roused, and it was determined to meet menace with defiance. The measure brought in by Lord Palmerston was regarded as an unworthy concession to the bombastic threats of the French colonels; and many who at another time would have been disposed to support it, now refused to give it any consideration. In vain did Count Walewski endeavour to remove the unfortunate feeling which these addresses had roused in this country, by expressing his regret at their publication, and explaining that it had arisen from inadvertence, caused by the number of the addresses presented. These apologies and explanations, ample and sincere as they were, did not succeed in allaying the indignation that had been awakened. The claims which the French emperor had established on the friendly feeling of this country were forgotten, and there was a strong combination of parties to defeat the government measure. On the question of the introduction of the bill, Mr. Roebuck, Lord John Russell, Mr. Disraeli, and Mr. Monckton Milnes declared themselves against it. When the second reading was proposed on the 19th of February, Mr. Milner Gibson moved the follow-

ing amendment: 'That this house hears with much concern that it is alleged that the recent attempt on the life of the Emperor of the French has been devised in England, and expresses its detestation of such a wicked enterprise; and that while the house is ready at all times to assist in remedying any defects in the criminal law, which, after due investigation, are proved to exist, yet it cannot but regret that her Majesty's government, previously to inviting the house to amend the law of conspiracy at the present time, have not felt it their duty to make some reply to the important despatch received from the French government, dated Paris, January 22nd, 1858, and which has been laid before parliament.' In the debate that followed, Mr. Gladstone joined the opponents of the government. When the House divided at the close of the debate, the numbers were:

For the amendment	234
Against	215
Majority against the government	19

Such was the answer the House of Commons gave, not so much to Lord Palmerston as to the foolish threats of the French colonels. Many of those who voted with the majority did not wish to overthrow the government; and as the question was not a very vital one, Lord Palmerston might have appealed to the House of Commons for a vote of confidence, which would probably have been accorded to him, and the house, after having exhaled its ill-humour, might perhaps have permitted him to proceed with his bill, or to substitute for it and carry another measure of a similar character and equal efficacy. But Lord Palmerston, who, though ambitious of office, never manifested any undue tenacity in the retention of it, determined to follow the rigorously constitutional though less convenient course, and at once resigned, leaving the fate of the Indian bill in the hands of a government which would probably not be able to command a majority in the House. Just before his resignation

he received intelligence of the triumph of his Chinese policy, and of the capture of Canton by the British troops.

On the resignation of Lord Palmerston, Lord Derby was sent for by the Queen, and with some difficulty formed an administration, the principal members of which were:

First Lord of the Treasury	The Earl of Derby.
Lord Chancellor	Lord Chelmsford.
Lord President of the Council	Marquis of Salisbury.
Lord Privy Seal	Earl of Hardwicke.
Chancellor of the Exchequer	Mr. Disraeli.
Home Secretary	Mr. Walpole.
Foreign Secretary	Earl of Malmesbury.
Colonial Secretary	Lord Stanley.
War Secretary	Colonel Peel.
Indian Board of Control	Lord Ellenborough.
President of Board of Trade	Mr. Henley.
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster ...	Duke of Montrose.
Postmaster-general	Lord Colchester.
First Lord of the Admiralty	Sir J. Packington.
Lord Lieutenant of Ireland	The Earl of Eglington.
Chief Secretary for Ireland	Lord Naas.
Woods and Forests	Lord J. Manners.

On Monday the first of March, the parliament having reassembled after the adjournment, which had been carried in order to allow the new minister time to make the necessary arrangements, Lord Derby rose in his place in the House of Lords to explain the circumstances under which he had assumed the government of the country. He excused himself from entering into a full statement of the policy which he would endeavour to carry out, on account of the shortness of the time that had elapsed since he took office, and the late period of the session; but he referred to two questions which appeared to him specially to demand the attention of the government; the first of these was the question of the changes to be effected in the system of government, or rather the constitution of the home government, of India; the other was the question of parliamentary reform. On both these questions he expressed an opinion

that it would have been better at present to have let them alone; but he at the same time acknowledged that, after the feeling that had been manifested with respect to them by the House of Commons, and after the manner in which the latter question had been referred to in several speeches from the throne, it would be his duty to try and effect a settlement of them.

As the preceding government had been thrown out of office on the ground that it had not sent an answer to the note of Count Walewski, one of the first duties that devolved on the new ministry was to send the answer which their predecessors had been censured for not having given. The reply was of course written by Lord Malmesbury the foreign secretary, who remarked in it that the language employed by Count Walewski in his letter had 'not unnaturally been understood to imply imputations not only that the offences enumerated are not recognized as such by the English law, and may be committed with impunity, but that the spirit of English legislation is such as designedly to shelter and screen the offender from punishment. Her majesty's government are persuaded, that had Count Walewski known, when his excellency held with your lordship the conversation to which I have adverted above, that such a construction was put on certain portions of his despatch of January 20th, he would have no difficulty in adding to the assurance then given the assurance that nothing could have been farther from his intention than to convey an imputation injurious alike to the morality and honour of the British nation.' On the 12th of March a reply to this communication was received from the French government which enabled Mr. Disraeli to announce to the House of Commons the same evening that the unfortunate misunderstanding which had recently existed between the two countries was now entirely terminated in a manner alike friendly and honourable, and which would be as satisfactory to the feelings as it was conducive to the interests of the two countries.

On the 26th of March it fell to the lot of Mr. Disraeli, as

leader of the House of Commons, to introduce the India bill of the new government, known at the time as India bill No. 2, in order to distinguish it from the bill that had previously been brought in by Lord Palmerston. As this measure, like No. 1, never went beyond its first reading, we need not enter into any description of it. A storm of ridicule and unpopularity arose against it, and it soon became evident that there was no chance of its passing. At this crisis, Lord J. Russell came forward and suggested that the house should deal with the question by way of resolution. Mr. Disraeli very cordially accepted Lord John Russell's proposal, and offered to allow him to move the resolutions. As, however, this arrangement was strongly objected to, on the ground that it was incompatible with ministerial responsibility, Mr. Disraeli himself brought forward resolutions on which a third bill might be founded, that he hoped would make its way through the house and be finally adopted. But before they came under the consideration of the House, an incident occurred which had nearly occasioned the dissolution of the newly-formed government. Lord Canning sent back the draft of a proclamation he proposed to issue, announcing a scheme of confiscation open to very grave objection, and which would probably have caused th e nearly-extinguished flame of rebellion to burst forth with renewed fury. Against the policy thus announced, Lord Ellenborough wrote a strongly-worded protest, which ought to have been kept secret till it had reached its destination. However, copies of it were sent to Lord Granville, the intimate friend of Lord Canning, and Mr. Bright, the leader of the party which advocated a mild and generous policy towards the natives of India. The consequence was, that the purport of the proposed proclamation and of Lord Ellenborough's strictures on it became known; and Lord Shaftesbury in the House of Lords, and Mr. Cardwell in the House of Commons, brought forward motions which were in fact censures on the ministry, and which, if carried, would probably have caused another change of government. This result was averted by the

resignation of Lord Ellenborough. It was afterwards found that objections similar to those which had been made by Lord Ellenborough had been raised by Sir James Outram in India, and that the proclamation had been modified by Lord Canning in accordance with his representations. Lord Shaftesbury's motion had already been rejected by the Lords, and after a protracted debate, extending over four nights, Mr. Cardwell withdrew that which he had proposed, in deference to the wishes and opinions of several members who had previously intended to have supported it. The circumstances which accompanied this withdrawal were thus triumphantly depicted by Mr. Disraeli in an address delivered at Slough to the conservative electors of Buckinghamshire on the 26th of May, five days after the occurrence of the scene which he described:

'There is nothing like that last Friday evening in the history of the House of Commons. We came down to the house expecting to divide at four o'clock in the morning; I myself probably expecting to deliver an address two hours after midnight; and I believe that, even with the consciousness of a good cause, that is no mean effort. Well, gentlemen, we were all assembled; our benches with their serried ranks seemed to rival those of our proud opponents; when suddenly there arose a wail of distress, but not from us. I can only liken the scene to the mutiny of the Bengal army. Regiment after regiment, corps after corps, general after general, all acknowledged that they could not march through Coventry. It was like a convulsion of nature rather than an ordinary transaction of human life. I can only liken it to one of those earthquakes which take place in Calabria and Peru. There was a rumbling murmur, a groan, a shriek, a sound of distant thunder. No one knew whether it came from the top or the bottom of the house. There was a rent, a fissure in the ground, and then a village disappeared, then a tall tower toppled down, and the whole of the opposition benches became one great dissolving view of anarchy.'

Perhaps a more splendid specimen of high art in word-painting, of an extravagantly-imaginative and decorative description, was never exhibited. It brings to the mind some of Martin's great pictures; only it has the advantage over them that motion has over rest, and the representation of the succession of events over the representation of their contemporaneous occurrence. The speech provoked more criticism perhaps than any address on a similar occasion ever was subjected to. It was repeatedly referred to in both houses; and Lord Derby, in defending and justifying it, thus alluded to the passage we have quoted from it: 'I felt eminently convinced that, great as was the wit, great as was the clearness, great as was the humour of this most graphic description—that which most peculiarly appertained to it was its undeniable truth. There was no exaggeration even of colouring; for no exaggeration could be applied to that matchless scene at which—I shall remember it to the last day of my life—I had the good fortune to be present.'

The passage which attracted so much attention was by no means the only portion of this clever and remarkable address that was subjected to adverse criticism. Two other statements it contained gave serious offence to the late ministry and their supporters, and were strongly controverted. In one of them Mr. Disraeli had applied to the late ministry the term 'cabal,' and in the other he had alleged that war with France was imminent when the late ministry quitted office. These allegations were indignantly denied by the members of the late government, but maintained and insisted on by Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli.

After all these discussions and interruptions, the House of Commons returned to the disagreeable but indispensable business of the consideration of the resolutions on which the India bill No. 3 was to be based. They were under the charge of Lord Stanley, and were subject to the especially-severe criticism and animadversion of Lord J. Russell, at whose suggestion the

plan of proceeding by resolution had been originally adopted. After long and careful deliberation, and much modification, the resolutions were at length agreed to, and embodied in a bill by which it was proposed that the government of India should be transferred from the Company to the Crown. A secretary of state for India was to be appointed, who was to be assisted by a council of fifteen, to hold office 'during good behaviour.' Eight members of this council were to be nominated by the crown, and seven, for the first time, by the board of directors, and afterwards by the council itself. One great feature of this measure was the introduction into it of the system of competitive examinations for the various civil offices, which had hitherto been in the patronage of the board of directors. This system had been advocated by Mr. Edwin Chadwick in the year 1827, in a paper on the administration of the medical charities in France. It was embodied in an Act passed by Lord Glenelg and Mr. Macaulay in 1833, but the East Indian Company allowed it to remain dormant. It was re-enacted in Sir C. Wood's Bill of 1853, and applied in a few instances, but being now powerfully urged by Mr. Mill, the government, which would probably have strenuously resisted such an attempt to interfere with its patronage in England, consented, without much reluctance, to a trial of the experiment in India. And thus this principle was fully inaugurated and was afterwards extended to branches of the home service to which it seemed to be peculiarly applicable—the engineers and the artillery—with such success, that it will no doubt be employed in every branch of the public service to which it can be applied. The grounds on which this great change was advocated have been laid down by Mr. Mill with his usual force and clearness:

'The proposal to select candidates for the civil service of government by a competitive examination appears to me to be one of those great public improvements, the adoption of which would form an era in history. The effects which it is calculated to produce in raising the character both of the public

administration and of the people can scarcely be over-estimated. It has equal claims to support from the disinterested and impartial among Conservatives and among Reformers. For its adoption would be the best vindication which could be made of existing political institutions, by showing that the classes who under the present constitution have the greatest influence in the government do not desire any greater share of the profits derivable from it than their merits entitle them to, but are willing to take the chances of competition with ability in all ranks; while the plan offers to Liberals, so far as it extends, the realization of the principal object which any honest reformer desires to effect by political changes, namely, that the administration of affairs should be in the most competent hands, which, as regards the permanent part of the administrative body, would be insured by the proposed plan, so far as it is possible for any human contrivance to secure it. When we add to this consideration the extraordinary stimulus which would be given to mental cultivation in its most important branches, not solely by the hope of prizes to be obtained by means of it, but by the effect of the national recognition of it as the exclusive title to participation in the conduct of so large and conspicuous a portion of the national affairs; and when we farther think of the great and salutary moral revolution, descending to the minds of almost the lowest classes, which would follow the knowledge that government (to people in general the most trusted exponent of the ways of the world) would henceforth bestow its gifts according to merit and not to favour, it is difficult to express in any language which would not appear exaggerated, the benefits which, as it appears to me, would ultimately be the consequences of the successful execution of the scheme.'

Such were the arguments which induced the government and the legislature to adopt the principle of competitive examinations. And now it may be asked, How far have the anticipations of advantage been actually fulfilled in the result?

'It cannot be denied,' says Mr. Chadwick, 'that competition has raised the average of service; it has insured a more hard-working and steady average of officers—a more frugal and more moral average, a higher social average, with fewer snobs. With important and valuable exceptions of a few men from the ranks, the social condition of the average, instead of being lowered, has remained much the same, and rather advanced. Members of the aristocracy enter into competition, and, with the advantages of special culture, maintain their own. The Horse Guards bemoaned, in respect to the army, the prospect of having the service filled with mere feeble "bookworms." Earl Grey lamented this, which, he would have it, was an inevitable consequence of the scheme. Now the fact is, that the average not only exceeds the former average in mental acquirements, but, what I confess I was not prepared to expect, it turns out a better average of bodily acquirement. The Woolwich cadets, who have a higher order of mental acquirement than those of Sandhurst, beat them in athletic exercises, and also beat their seniors, the non-competitives. The average of bodily attainment, with much more yet to do, has decidedly improved. Then we have, at the same time, to look to the promise on the other side of the account—of the removal of corrupt political influence on constituencies and in parliament, as well as the reduction of waste from inefficiency in the executive business of the country. We heard the other day a member of a conservative administration declare, from this chair, that there is already little or no political patronage worth having. And last week I heard a leading liberal parliamentary agent state that the new measure, the public benefits of which he acknowledged, had deprived him of accustomed and potent means of electoral influence.'

We may note here the quiet settlement of a question which had long agitated the legislature and the country, and to the agitation carried on in favour of which we have more than once had occasion to refer. On the 1st of July the long-stand-

ing controversy on the subject of the Jewish disabilities received its quietus by means of a compromise suggested by Lord Lucan, which was in fact a surrender by the House of Lords of the principle which it had hitherto so obstinately maintained. The suggestion was, that each house should have the power to modify, according to its pleasure, the form of oath to be administered to its members. A bill embodying this suggestion having been carried rapidly through its various stages, and the form of oath in the lower house having been altered in such a way as to allow of its being taken by a Jew, was administered in its amended form to Baron Rothschild, who was allowed, without farther opposition, to occupy the seat in the house from which he had so long been debarred.

An almost tropical heat, and a pestilential stench from the Thames, which neither black rod nor sergeant-at-arms could keep out of the halls of parliament, made the members of both houses more than usually anxious to bring to a termination their legislative work, and hasten as quickly as possible into a purer atmosphere; and the government, for many reasons, was only too anxious to gratify this desire. But before the session closed, ministers very properly determined to abate the intolerable nuisance which had so unpleasantly forced itself on their notice. Accordingly, on Thursday, July the 15th, Mr. Disraeli moved for leave to bring in a bill for the main drainage of the metropolis; a work which it was calculated would cost at least 3,000,000*l.* It was proposed that parliament should impose a special rate on the metropolis for the purpose of purifying the river and completing the main drainage of the metropolis; the money to be borrowed on the guarantee of the government, and repaid by a special rate of 3*d.* in the pound, to be called the sewage rate, in forty years, by annual instalments; the work to be completed in five years and a half. The expenditure of the money and the carrying out of the object of the bill was to be intrusted to the metropolitan board of works. The bill went through its various stages with few

alterations. On Monday, the 2nd of August, parliament was prorogued by commission; and on the following Wednesday the Queen and Prince Albert started from Portsmouth on board the Victoria and Albert steam yacht, and attended by a large convoy, to meet the Emperor and Empress of the French at Cherbourg, and to assist at the fêtes held there on the occasion of the inauguration of a new Napoleon dock and a statue of the First Napoleon.

Thus the ministry of a minority had, under the deft and dextrous guidance of Mr. Disraeli, passed through the session without sustaining any defeat, and their leader had cleverly managed to give to a great escape the semblance of a great victory. But it was not by any feats of political legerdemain, however skilful, that public support was to be obtained for a ministry which existed not so much on the sufferance as on the divisions of its opponents, by which the great liberal majority was broken up into fragments. There was a party led by Lord J. Russell; another led by Lord Palmerston; another consisting of the Peelites, as they were called, few in number but formidable on account of their legislative and administrative capacity as well as their eloquence; and lastly there was the party which had forced on a reluctant and protectionist legislature the adoption of a free-trade policy, and which, under the able and eloquent leadership of Messrs. Cobden and Bright, would probably have attached to itself all the other sections of the liberal party, if those eminent men had not chosen to sacrifice power and popularity rather than yield to the warlike passions and prejudices of their fellow-countrymen.

But the clever leaders of the conservative party did not rely only on the divisions of their opponents. They were well aware that, unless they could obtain a greater amount of public confidence and support than they at present possessed, they could not exercise power, nor long continue to retain their places; and they felt at once the necessity and the difficulty

of putting forth a programme of their policy. Something must be done to conciliate public opinion; yet what change could be proposed that would not rouse the opposition of their extreme followers? They met this difficulty by putting forward a cry instead of a programme, and talking about 'conservative progress;' a phrase too vague to cause alarm to the most decided reactionist, and yet holding out the promise that the existence of a conservative government would not altogether put a stop to the march of improvement.

While the Queen and the Emperor were exchanging civilities at Cherbourg, and cementing the existing alliance between France and England, the Agamemnon and Niagara had succeeded, in spite of most unfavourable weather, in depositing the electric cable at the bottom of the Atlantic; and messages of congratulation on the result thus achieved were transmitted between the Queen of England and the President of the United States, and between the Mayors of London and New York. Great was the joy which the tidings of this scientific success caused in the two countries, especially in the United States. But the signals became fainter and fainter; at length they ceased altogether; yet no explanation could be afforded of the cause of their cessation. It was, however, alleged that the electric current went feebly and only for a short distance; and it was therefore hoped that the failure had occurred in the shallow water near the Irish coast, and in a portion of the cable weaker than the rest, and which had been temporarily laid down, for the purpose of being afterwards replaced. This hope, however, was disappointed; and for the present this great and bold experiment had failed.

The Chinese war was brought to a close towards the end of the year by a treaty, of which it was observed at the time that it was 'highly satisfactory on paper.' It was found on trial to be tolerably satisfactory in its practical working.

The Oxford middle-class examination, now known as the 'University local examination,' commenced at Oxford on the

21st of June; and the example thus set was followed by the sister university of Cambridge in December. The admission of girls to the university examinations was not obtained till 1865.

Before the end of the year 1858 a proclamation was issued announcing the transfer of the government of India from the Company to the Crown, in conformity with the provisions of the act which had been passed for that purpose; and very shortly after, the commander-in-chief of the Indian army, Sir Colin Campbell, who had been raised to the peerage by the title of Lord Clyde, was able officially to announce to the governor-general that the last vestiges of the rebellion had been trampled out, and that the last bands of the insurgents had been driven across the frontiers of our possessions into the kingdom of Nepaul.

The desire for parliamentary reform had never ceased to exist; but the agitation of the question had been to a great extent suspended during the years that had passed between the collapse of Chartism in 1848 and the period we have now reached. The attention of the legislature and the country had been engrossed by the Great Exhibition, by the Crimean, Chinese, Persian, and Indian wars, and by other events of less importance. The consequence was that the consideration of this question had, with general consent, been postponed to a more convenient season. Now, however, the state of parties favoured the revival of its agitation; and towards the close of this year several large and important meetings were held for the purpose of manifesting the feeling. In this agitation Mr. Bright took the lead. He had now recovered from the very serious illness under which he had been suffering, and which for nearly two years had prevented him from transacting any kind of business. He attended very large and important meetings at Birmingham, Manchester, and Glasgow; and at the earnest request of the parties who were associated with him in this agitation, he reluctantly consented to prepare a measure.

Accordingly he drew up a bill conferring the borough franchise on all persons rated to the relief of the poor, and on all lodgers who paid a rent of ten pounds, reducing the franchise in the counties to a ten-pound rental, laying the expenses of the returning-officer on the county or borough rate, prescribing that votes should be taken by ballot, wholly disfranchising eighty-six boroughs, taking away one member from thirty-four other boroughs, and transferring the seats thus obtained to the larger towns, counties, and divisions of counties. The measure was one that very happily and exactly met the wishes and aspirations of the really-earnest reformers throughout the country, and obtained a very decided support from them. It is true that the feeling exhibited in favour of it was far inferior in intensity to that which had prevailed in 1831 and 1832. For this there were many reasons. The abuses of our representative system were not nearly so glaring as those which existed before the passing of the first reform bill; the influence of public opinion was much more powerful than it had been; class-legislation was on the wane; the number of those who constituted the electoral body was proportionately much larger, the number of those excluded from it was proportionably smaller; the condition of the country was very different, for instead of the suffering that prevailed in 1831, and affected almost every class and description of persons, there was in 1858 general prosperity and contentment. All these circumstances tended to abate the eagerness with which a reform of our electoral system was demanded. Nevertheless a strong feeling in favour of such a reform existed at this time, and its existence is proved by the fact that not only Lord J. Russell and Lord Palmerston were prepared to deal with the question, but that even Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli, knowing as they did the perils they would have to encounter not only from their political opponents, but also, and perhaps even more formidably, from the more extreme section of their political supporters, felt that the only course open to them was that of

boldly braving these dangers, and staking the existence of their government on the success of a measure for the reform of parliament. Their intention to do this, though not known, was suspected; and it was generally believed at the end of this year that a measure of parliamentary reform would be announced in the Queen's speech, and introduced at an early period of the approaching session. Both parties were therefore looking forward, not indeed with strongly-excited feelings such as the question had formerly raised, but still with a certain anxious and feverish curiosity, for the introduction of the bill which the cabinet of Lord Derby was understood to be engaged in framing, and to the struggle for which it was sure to be the signal in the next parliamentary session.

CHAPTER III.

THE FRENCH TREATY.

It was certainly a bold stroke of policy on the part of the conservative administration to bring forward a reform bill; and if we regard politics merely in the light of a game, in which office is the prize of the most adroit or lucky player, we cannot but bestow unmixed praise on this move on the political chess-board, as being the one that was calculated to check-mate the opponents of the government, and to afford it the best chance of converting the minority by which it was supported into a majority. But it was a move of great delicacy and danger. Two things which it was exceedingly difficult to combine were absolutely necessary to its success. The reform bill of the ministry must not too much alarm the ultra Tories, and at the same time must commend itself to the country as a bold and statesmanlike measure, which extended the franchise and improved the representative system of the country. And though it would have been very difficult, it perhaps might not have been impossible to unite these two seeming incompatibilities. For the Whig party had dealt with this question in such a manner as to have forfeited the confidence of the country. Up to the year 1831 they had manifested marked indifference to the question; then, indeed, they had given a warm support to the great reform bill; but they supported it not so much because they regarded it as a measure desirable on its own merits, as because it was vehemently demanded by the nation, and likely to give the party that carried it through both houses a long tenure of power and office. When that measure was passed, they relapsed

into their former indifference, and in fact showed no more disposition to entertain the question than the Conservatives themselves; and there can be little doubt that one of the chief reasons why Lord Palmerston was preferred to Lord J. Russell was, that the hostility with which the former regarded reform was much more in accordance with the secret feelings of the leaders of the Whig party than the zeal which Lord J. Russell manifested in favour of it. If, therefore, the conservative ministry had brought forward a plain, decided, and courageous measure of reform, it is very probable that the Whigs would not have tried to outbid them; and in that case it is quite possible that they might have carried with them the sympathies of the people, wearied and disgusted at the manner in which the question had been played with for party purposes by the Whigs, and on an appeal to the nation might have obtained the support of many sincere reformers, and at the same time have succeeded in persuading the extreme men of their own party that, the question being one which must be settled soon, it was better that it should be dealt with by a conservative government than by their opponents. But instead of proposing a simple, straightforward measure, which would have been at once understood by the country, they framed one of a very complicated description, and which contained provisions so strong that Mr. Walpole could truly say with regard to it, 'It was one which we should all of us have stoutly opposed if either Lord Palmerston or Lord J. Russell had brought it forward;' and yet, on the other hand, it was not calculated to excite any enthusiasm in its favour either in the country or in the legislature.

Before parliament met, two of the most eminent members of the conservative government had retired from it, and that on the express ground of their disapproval of the reform bill, which the majority of their colleagues had determined to introduce. This defection was the more damaging because they were men of very high integrity, entertaining opinions with

regard to the reform question shared by that large portion of the conservative party which viewed all reform with jealousy, and only acquiesced in the introduction of a measure on the subject by their own party as a means of preventing a still stronger measure from being carried by the party opposed to them. However, notwithstanding this ominous loss, the government determined to meet parliament, and to lay before it the measure, which had been carefully prepared during the vacation.

The session was opened on Thursday the 3rd of February by the Queen in person. The speech from the throne recommended the reconstruction of the navy; a point on which it was noticed that her Majesty, in her reading of the speech, dwelt with marked emphasis; and it was expected from the terms employed that a very large demand would be made on the nation for the purpose. It was, therefore, an agreeable surprise to the legislature and the nation when it subsequently turned out that Sir J. Packington asked no more than 1,000,000*l.* for the performance of the operation which had been so magniloquently announced. The sum required seemed to show either that the required reconstruction was not very extensive, or that it would be very cheaply effected.

The portion of the speech which naturally excited the greatest interest, although it only announced what was already generally known, was that which referred to the intended introduction of a reform bill. Accordingly, on the 28th of February, Mr. Disraeli explained the measure of the government and asked leave to introduce it. The house was crowded in all its parts, as it is only crowded when some question of grave and serious importance is to be brought forward.

The bill proposed to give a vote in boroughs to persons who had property to the amount of 10*l.* a year in the funds, bank stock, or East India stock; to persons having 60*l.* in a savings' bank; to the recipients of pensions in the naval, military, and

civil services amounting to 20*l.* a year; to the inhabitants of a portion of any house whose aggregate rent was 20*l.* per annum; to graduates, ministers of religion, members of the legal and medical professions, and under certain defined circumstances, to schoolmasters. It proposed to remove the heartburnings caused by the working of the celebrated Chandos clause of the reform bill of 1832 by extending the 10*l.* household franchise to the counties; an arrangement which it was calculated would add two hundred thousand to the number of the county electors. The bill was allowed to be brought in without opposition, but very strong objections were entertained against it by men of all parties in the house. The problem which its framers had sought to solve appears to have been how to increase the number of voters throughout the kingdom in such a way as to secure the return of a conservative majority. But though this seems to have been the aim of those who devised the bill, the majority of the conservative party seriously doubted, and probably with justice, whether the proposed end would be attained by the measure. The interval that elapsed between the first and the second reading of the bill by no means improved its prospects or strengthened the position of the government. However, the greater part of the conservative party faithfully, though not without much murmuring and dissatisfaction, followed their leaders, and a great struggle took place when the question of the second reading was brought forward by Mr. Disraeli.

On the 21st March Lord John Russell proposed the following amendment: 'That it is neither just nor politic to interfere in the manner proposed in the government bill with the freehold franchise as hitherto exercised in the counties of England and Wales; and that no readjustment of the franchise will satisfy the house or the country which does not provide for a greater extension of the suffrage in cities and boroughs than is contemplated in the present measure.' The debate on the question of the second reading extended over nearly two weeks, at

the close of which a division took place, when the numbers were—

For Lord J. Russell's amendment	330
Against	291
Majority against the government	39

Thus the almost unequalled number of 621 members was present and voted on this division. Ministers had only two courses which, under the circumstances, they could take without dishonour—they must either resign or dissolve. They chose the latter alternative.

As soon as this decision became known, the interest of the public was swiftly turned from the moribund House of Commons to the constituencies by which the new House was to be elected. The grounds on which the government made its appeal from the decision of the Commons to those whom they represented were ably and concisely stated in Mr. Disraeli's address to his Buckinghamshire constituents, intended, not for them only, but for the whole English people.

'*To the Electors of the County of Buckingham.*

'Gentlemen—A parliamentary majority, composed of discordant sections, has availed itself of its numerical strength to embarrass her Majesty's government, and, by a disingenuous manœuvre, to intercept the discussion of their measures.

'A year ago Lord Derby was summoned by her Majesty to undertake the administration of public affairs. Assisted by his colleagues, he has with diligence and devotion endeavoured to discharge his duty to the country.

'The blow which has lately been inflicted on the government deprives it of authority; and yet in the ranks of the opposition there is no more unity of sentiment than when their distracted politics rendered it necessary that Lord Derby should assume the helm.

'The opposition in the present House of Commons, which

was elected under ambiguous circumstances, is broken into sections, which can always combine and overthrow the Queen's government, however formed. This is a condition alike prejudicial to parliament and to the empire.

'It is for the country to comprehend and to remedy these evils.

'The moment is critical. England has engaged to mediate between two great monarchs, and, if possible, preserve for Europe the blessing of peace. It is necessary that the Queen's government should be supported by a patriotic parliament.

'Her majesty, therefore, under the advice of her ministers, will shortly prorogue the present parliament, with a view to its immediate dissolution, and will recur to the sense of her people, so that those who may be intrusted with her Majesty's confidence may be enabled to conduct the government with becoming authority.

'I have the honour to be, gentlemen,

'Your obliged and faithful servant,

'B. DISRAELI.

'Downing Street, April 4, 1859.

There was some truth, but more plausibility, in this statement of the case of the government. The Conservatives, though outnumbered by the Liberals, did unquestionably form the largest compact body in the House of Commons, because their opponents were split up into four sections, of which Lord Palmerston, Lord J. Russell, Mr. Bright, and Mr. Horsman were the leaders; and when the opinions of these parties were looked into, it appeared almost impossible that the liberal party would lay aside their divisions, and give a sustained and continued support to a ministry selected by either of the leaders of its two largest divisions.

Parliament was prorogued on the 19th of April, and dissolved on the following day. Before the commencement of the elections, it was known that war had broken out between France and Sardinia on the one hand, and Austria on the other. This event afforded the conservative candidates an opportunity

of descanting on the danger of a change of ministry occurring at such a moment; and on the other hand caused Lord J. Russell and the opposition candidates generally to urge that a government which would be listened to with deference abroad ought to have strength and stability at home; but that the present administration had exhibited itself to Europe at the outset of an approaching congress as having an irreconcilable difference with parliament, of whose assistance it will have deprived itself during what may be a critical period of the negotiation. The announcement of the war produced a panic on the stock-exchange, drawing after it several heavy failures: but confidence was restored as soon as it became known that the English government had determined to abstain from all intervention in the contest. There can be no doubt, however, that so far as the war influenced the elections at all, it told, on the whole, against the government, because the sympathies of the majority of the English people were strongly in favour of the liberation of Italy from Austrian oppression; and it was generally believed that, while the sympathies of the conservative party and government were with Austria, the influence of any liberal government would be thrown into the scale of Italy.

Such were the auspices and influences under which the battle at the hustings was fought, and though it brought a gain to the government of some twenty seats, this gain was not sufficient to turn the scale in their favour. The result of this appeal to the country was, that about 302 Conservatives and 350 Liberals were returned to the new parliament. It was opened by royal commission on the 31st of May, and by her Majesty in person on the 7th of June, the interval having been spent in swearing-in the members and going through other preliminary formalities. When the address in answer to the speech from the throne was brought forward, the Marquis of Hartington moved an addition to it, which was, in fact, a vote of want of confidence in ministers. The debate on this motion was carried on with great vivacity and some irritation during three nights, and con-

cluded on the night of the 10th of June, when on a division the numbers were—

For the amendment	323
Against	310
Majority against the government ...	13

This defeat of the ministry was immediately followed by its resignation. It was already known that Lord J. Russell and Lord Palmerston, between whom a coldness had for some time prevailed, and who respectively headed two different sections of the liberal party, had been reconciled, and had agreed to act together; but speculation was still rife as to which of them would hold the first place in the ministry that would have to be formed. To the surprise, and somewhat to the dismay, of the liberal party, it was announced that Lord Granville had been sent for by her Majesty. A better choice probably could not have been made at the time; but as both Lord J. Russell and Lord Palmerston had held the post of prime-minister, it had generally been expected that one or other of them would have been selected; and the public curiosity was excited to know whether the bolder views of the former, or the more conservative policy of the latter, would prevail. There was therefore a feeling of baffled inquisitiveness when it was announced that Lord Granville had been called on to form an administration, coupled with a desire to know why the claims of the two eminent men who led the liberal party in the House of Commons had been disregarded. An explanation of the reasons of the course adopted was speedily given, and given in a most extraordinary and unprecedented manner. The interview between her Majesty and Earl Granville took place on the afternoon of the 11th of June, and on the morning of the 13th the following detailed account of the conversation which had taken place on the occasion appeared in the *Times* newspaper:

'Her Majesty, after listening to all the objections which Lord

Granville had to offer, commanded him to attempt to form an administration, which should at once be strong in ability and parliamentary influence, and should at the same time comprehend within itself a full and fair representation of all the sections into which the liberal party has notoriously been divided. Feeling, probably, that it might be urged as an objection to this course, that Lord Granville, who has never yet held the office of prime-minister, would thus be placed in a position paramount to that occupied by Lord Palmerston and Lord John Russell, each of whom had served her long and faithfully in many high offices of state, who had each filled the office of first minister of the crown, her Majesty was pleased to observe, that she had in the first instance turned her thoughts towards Lord Palmerston and Lord J. Russell. Her Majesty felt, however, that to make so marked a distinction as is implied in the choice of one or other as a prime-minister of two statesmen so full of years and honours, and possessing so just a claim on the consideration of the Queen, would be a very invidious and unwelcome task. Her Majesty also observed, that Lord John Russell and Lord Palmerston appeared to represent different sections of the liberal party: Lord Palmerston the more conservative, and Lord John Russell the more popular section. Impressed with these difficulties, her Majesty cast her eyes on Lord Granville, the acknowledged leader of the liberal party in the House of Lords, in whom both Lord John Russell and Lord Palmerston had been in the habit of placing confidence, and who might have greater facilities for uniting the whole liberal party under one administration than could be enjoyed by either of the sectional leaders.'

A few days after, in officially announcing his resignation in the House of Lords, the Earl of Derby not unnaturally expressed his surprise that a conversation of so confidential a character should have appeared in the *Times*. Earl Granville, in reply, explained that he had obtained permission from her Majesty to state to his political friends the result of what had occurred;

but it was never intended that it should be communicated to any newspaper, nor had he done so. At the same time he could not see that any injury had resulted from the publication, seeing that her Majesty appeared therein as desirous as ever of walking in the spirit of the constitution. Lord Palmerston agreed to the proposed arrangement; but Lord John Russell would not consent to serve under Lord Granville, expressing, however, his willingness to serve under Lord Palmerston. This refusal rendered it impossible for Lord Granville to form a ministry that would be likely to command a majority in the House of Commons. Lord Palmerston was then sent for by the Queen, and undertook the formation of a new ministry, of which the following were the principal members:

First Lord of the Treasury	Viscount Palmerston.
Lord Chancellor...	Lord Campbell.
Lord President of Council	Earl Granville.
Lord Privy Seal	Duke of Argyle.
Chancellor of the Exchequer	Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone.
Home Secretary...	Sir. G. C. Lewis.
Foreign Secretary	Lord J. Russell.
Colonial Secretary	Duke of Newcastle.
War Secretary	Right Hon. Sidney Herbert.
Indian Secretary	Sir C. Wood.
President of the Board of Trade ...	
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster	Sir G. Grey.
Postmaster-general	Earl of Elgin.
First Lord of the Admiralty	Duke of Somerset.
Lord Lieutenant of Ireland	Ear of Carlisle.
Chief Secretary for Ireland	Mr. Cardwell.

It will be perceived that the name of the president of the Board of Trade is omitted in this list. And the reason of the omission is, that Mr. Cobden, who was on his way back from America, had in his absence been elected member for Rochdale, and that Lord Palmerston, anxious to have the support of the Manchester party, had determined to offer him that office. Accordingly, on his arrival he was informed of his election for the borough of Rochdale, and received Lord

Palmerston's offer of office, which was couched in very flattering terms. To Mr. Cobden this offer was very tempting. The salary of the office would at that time have been an object of consequence to him; and, as he afterwards said, the office was one in which he felt that he would have been 'a square peg in a square hole.' He nevertheless refused it. He strongly disapproved the policy of Lord Palmerston, and especially his foreign policy; he was decidedly opposed to the large military expenditure which he knew that the prime-minister deemed to be absolutely necessary, but which he could not, consistently with the opinions he had often avowed and still held, consent to sanction or support. The post which he refused was accepted by his friend Mr. Milner Gibson, who generally acted with him, and whose opinions on almost all the great questions of the day were nearly identical with his own. Another gentleman whose accession to the ministry gave it great strength and stability, and whose presence in it was perhaps necessary to its existence, and certainly to its permanence, was Mr. Gladstone. He had to face another strong contest for his seat for the university of Oxford; but his friends succeeded, though not without difficulty, in obtaining his re-election by a larger majority than on the last occasion, notwithstanding the opposition of many members of the university who had formerly given him their support, but who were becoming intolerant of the more and more pronounced liberality of his views, and whose anger and suspicions were farther roused by his acceptance of office in the Palmerston administration.

Thus in the brief period which intervened between June, 1846, and July, 1859, there had been no fewer than six changes of ministry, each attended with all the evils inseparable from such changes; the interruption of the public and private business of parliament, alteration in the domestic and foreign policy of the government as a whole, and in the direction of its several departments. The consequence was, that before a minister had become familiarized with the duties he had to discharge,

or with the faces of the subordinate members of his department, he was obliged to make way for a successor, who in his turn was speedily compelled to yield his place to another. And it must be remembered that during this period the holders of the different great offices of state were even more frequently changed than the ministries. These changes led thinking men to inquire whether the time was not approaching when the system of government by party, which had existed ever since the year 1693, would not have to be replaced by a system under which each office of the government would be occupied by the person best qualified, in the opinion of the representatives of the nation, to fill, and who would be allowed to remain in it not for a few months only, but as long as it seemed to be for the interest of the public service that he should retain it. It is no part of our duty to endeavour to resolve the problem thus raised, but it is a part of it to mention the fact; and to direct attention to the circumstances which at this time naturally gave rise to it, and the more so as they will probably recur in a not far distant future.

While the political changes to which we have referred were being made in England, events of a much more serious nature were occurring on the Continent. The Austrians, after having suffered a rapid succession of defeats, had been driven out of Northern Italy, by the combined forces of the French and Sardinians, into the quadrilateral of fortresses, from which it would have been a matter of great difficulty to dislodge them; and as Prussia showed signs of preparing to interfere on behalf of Austria, the war was brought to a speedy close. An interview took place at Villafranca between the emperors of France and Austria, at which an armistice was concluded, followed by a treaty of peace. An intention to annex Savoy to France was reported to be entertained, was protested against by the English government, disavowed by Count Walewski on behalf of France, but shortly after carried into effect.

Mr. Gladstone's budget, introduced on the 18th of July, was very clear and thoroughly honest. He had to provide for a

large addition to our naval and military establishments, in consequence of which it was expected that while the revenue for the coming year would be 64,340,000*l.*, the expenditure would be 69,207,000*l.* Mr. Gladstone did not attempt to make up this deficiency by a loan, or by any of the expedients usually adopted by chancellors of the exchequer for putting off the evil day, but by an addition of 4*d.* in the pound to the tax on incomes of above 150*l.*, a penny stamp on bankers' cheques drawn across the counter, and by the diminution of the malt credits from eighteen to twelve weeks; thus adding to the accounts of the present year this duty, which otherwise would not have been available till the year following.

A Financial-reform Association had been formed at Liverpool, and was the means of drawing public attention to the increase of taxation which had taken place during the last few years; it was replied that the increase of population had gone on even more rapidly, and that while at the commencement of the century the taxation of the country was 43*s.* per head, in the year 1858 it was 41*s.* 2d. per head, and in the year 1851 it had fallen as low as 39*s.* per head. It was also alleged that the increase of the wealth of the country had during the same period gone on even more rapidly than the increase of its population; and that the proportion which the taxation of the country bore to its wealth was only half of what it was in 1803, and only four-fifths of what it was in 1845, and this notwithstanding the large increase of expenditure that had been caused by the reconstruction of our national defences.

The association adverted to the heavy cost incurred in collecting the revenue of the country. That revenue, as we have just seen, was estimated by the chancellor of the exchequer at 69,207,000*l.*; and it was stated that the cost of collecting this amount would be 4,740,000*l.*, that is to say 7*l.* 10*s.* to the collector for 100*l.* collected by him. By the Financial Association the cost of collection was placed much higher than this. But it was alleged to be lower in England than in France or America,

and to appear to be much more than it really was, because it included the payment of a multitude of extraneous and miscellaneous functions—the collecting of statistics, of light duties, the working of the merchant's shipping act, the whole cost of bonding and warehousing incurred for the benefit of the merchant. And it was affirmed that when these various items were deducted, it would be found that the cost of collecting would be greatly reduced, and probably be found not to exceed three per cent.; and that if some protective duties that still remained could be abolished, this amount would undergo a farther and considerable reduction. It was difficult to discover the truth amongst the greatly-different statements that were made; and the general opinion was, that the expenditure under this head was excessive, and that a saving of at least two millions in the cost of collecting might be effected.

The plan of the Liverpool financial reformers was ably put forward by Mr. Bright, in a speech which he delivered on the 1st of December, 1859, at a meeting arranged by the Financial-reform Association, and which, being published by them, may be regarded as an exposition of their views.

The plan proposed by Mr. Bright on this occasion was certainly one of the boldest that has ever been put forward, involving, in fact, a complete financial revolution. He proposed the repeal of those taxes which fall on the bulk of the community, and on persons with precarious incomes, and the substitution for them of taxes on property producing a fixed income, the repeal of the income-tax, the assessed taxes (except the house-tax), the tax on marine assurances, the tax on fire insurances, and the excise duty on paper. He farther proposed to strike off every duty from the customs' tariff excepting those on foreign wines (which he would reduce from five shillings and sixpence to one shilling on the gallon), foreign spirits, and tobacco. He calculated that these remissions would have the effect of reducing the revenue by upwards of 26,000,000*l.* He proposed to cover this deficiency by a tax of 8*s.* per cent. on

the income of all persons whose property was above 100*l.*, which, according to his estimate, based on parliamentary returns, would yield a revenue of about 27,000,000*l.*

These bold recommendations attracted at the time a large share of public attention, and would probably have led to some important changes, if there had not arisen about the same time one of those invasion panics which have periodically afflicted this country, encouraged, as it would seem, by the prime-minister himself, and certainly aggravated by the intemperate boasts and menaces of French officers and journalists. One of the consequences of the alarm thus created was the formation of rifle-corps throughout the country, intended to assist in its defence, in case the very improbable contingency of an invasion should occur. These corps have survived the alarms that gave birth to them; and by allowing the reduction in the number of our regular army they have enabled the government to reduce our military expenditure more than the opinion of the public and the legislature would otherwise have permitted.

During the vacation the government first adopted the plan of publishing diplomatic documents in the *Gazette*, without waiting for the authority of parliament. By this means the desire naturally felt by the people to be made acquainted with the progress of foreign affairs was gratified during the recess, as well as during the session of parliament.

Throughout the autumn of this year the church of St. George's-in-the-East was the scene of a series of disgraceful riots, originating in the introduction of vestments, and other changes in the mode of conducting the service, which had given great offence to some of the congregation, as well as to many more who never attended the church. They were carried on by persons destitute of every kind of religious principle, who made the obnoxious rites a pretext for the indulgence of their brutal profanity, shouting, whistling, introducing dogs into the church, hustling and insulting the clergy and those who assisted them in the performance of the service. These riots rose

to such a height of violence, and were continued so long, that the bishop of London, assuming an authority that did not belong to him, ordered the church to be closed for a time, in the hope of thus putting an end to the unseemly brawling of which it had been the scene. In this expectation he was disappointed; for on the re-opening of the church the disturbances were renewed with greater violence and more shocking depravity than ever; and though the vestments and ceremonies which had been the original cause of them had been discarded, they continued to be carried on till the Rev. Bryan King exchanged to another parish.

The war against Austria had so greatly aggrandized the king of Sardinia, who had now assumed the title of King of Italy, that the French emperor began to fear he had raised up a power which might at some future time prove a formidable rival. The consequence was, that when peace was concluded, France, which had lavished so much blood and treasure in the cause of Italian independence, was regarded by the Italians with feelings of jealousy and suspicion; while England, who had given nothing but her good wishes, was looked to with respect and gratitude; a result which may serve as a warning to all nations that are disposed to interfere in quarrels in which they have only an indirect, perhaps only an imaginary, interest.

The year 1859 came to a close amidst unmistakable tokens of reviving prosperity. The customs, the excise, the assessed taxes, and the post-office, yielded a revenue which surpassed that of any previous year by 2,023,000*l*. The imports and exports were greatly in excess of those of any former year. Trade and commerce were flourishing in all their branches; pauperism was much diminished; employment was plentiful, and wages high; the funds high and steady; the rate of discount low, and money abundant. A shadow of gloom was cast on all this prosperity by the sudden death of our wonderfully acccomplished historian, Lord Macaulay, leaving his *chef-*

d'œuvre still uncompleted. As long as the English language shall be spoken, the works of Macaulay, and especially his *History of England*, will be read with delight, and all that relates to their author will be regarded with interest. Like most of our other great writers, the groundwork of his excellence was laid in the careful and continual perusal of our beautiful translation of the Hebrew Scriptures, with which in his earlier years his mind was saturated through the care of his father, a man of a deeply religious character. To this was superadded a diligent study of the writers of antiquity, and particularly of the great Greek dramatists, Æschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides: but with these studies he also joined that of the writings of the Christian Fathers—writings which, at that period at least, were seldom read except by the professional students of theology. His career at the University of Cambridge was one of great and remarkable distinction. He does not, indeed, appear to have given much attention to those mathematical studies which at that time, even more than at present, formed the peculiar boast of the university to which he belonged; but he twice won the Chancellor's medal, he was bracketed with two others for the Craven scholarship, and was elected a fellow of Trinity College. It is evident, however, that his attention was not wholly engrossed by his academic studies. He was a frequent speaker at the university debating club; and his after-career shows that he must have always been a very general and discursive reader. His father's wealth rendered it unnecessary that he should devote himself to any profession. He was called to the bar in 1826, but he does not appear to have ever intended to follow the law as a profession, though it is probable that, had he done so, he would have risen, by the force of his genius and talents, to the highest honours that it holds out to its most successful votaries. At this time he formed a connection with the *Edinburgh Review* —then in the zenith of its reputation—which continued throughout the greater part of the remainder of his life, and which no

doubt contributed in no small degree to give that direction to his mind which led to the production of those works which must immortalize his name, and at length caused him to undertake that extraordinary work, in which the most profound thoughts and the highest philosophy are conveyed with a beauty of style and a luxury of adornment that render it more fascinating than the most powerful romance. The most extraordinary feature in this great man's mind was the immense power of memory with which he was gifted, and which enabled him to retain, ready for production whenever they might be required, all those vast stores of information which he had amassed in the course of a life principally devoted to reading of all kinds. It is often found that men who are gifted with strongly-retentive memories are deficient in vigorous and philosophic thought or in imaginative power; but in both these respects Macaulay was pre-eminent. What, however, was still more extraordinary was, that he combined with the highest philosophical and poetic genius the plodding industry and the careful accuracy of the antiquarian. If he was distinguished as a man of genius, he was no less remarkable for the careful manner in which he unfolded and scrutinized the dusty worm-eaten records of parliament, or the stained and tattered ballads of a distant age. Nothing was too high for his genius, nothing too difficult for his industry, nothing too low and humble for his investigation. A great poet, a great philosopher, a great historian, and a great antiquary, he possessed excellence in each of these walks sufficient to make a lasting reputation; but he possessed all these in combination, and united with them a splendour of genius quite peculiar to himself.

His literary character was undoubtedly his chief glory, and that by which he will always be chiefly remembered; but he was great also as a politician and a debater. His published speeches, though inferior to his written works, and especially to his History, have an excellence which has very rarely been surpassed, even in the annals of British eloquence. But from

the first he appears to have felt that the House of Commons was not the place in which his genius could shine with all its brilliancy, and that he could do higher and better work with his pen than with his tongue. In the year 1857 he was raised to the peerage, on which the lustre of his genius conferred much more distinction than he could receive from it; but he never enjoyed an opportunity of addressing the senate into which he was admitted, and his death followed two years after, at the age of fifty-nine.

Lord Macaulay was strongly attached to Whig principles and to his political friends; and if there is any blemish in his History, it has arisen from this feeling. He idealized the principles of the Whigs, and though, taken as a whole, his work is as remarkable for its accuracy and impartiality as it is for the genius that irradiates it; yet his Whig bias has sometimes led him to do more than justice to those whose political conduct he approved, and less than justice to those whose opinions were adverse to the party to which he was attached. But if he were thus biassed, it was quite unconsciously to himself, and in spite of his own earnest endeavour to state truly the motives and the characters of the men whose lives and actions he desired to narrate with conscientious fidelity. That he never wilfully misstated any fact or misrepresented any character, no one who has read his work with attention will for a moment doubt.

Those who knew him best were the most enthusiastic in their admiration of his private character. A friend who was himself a writer of no mean power thus speaks of him:

'The brilliant efforts of accomplished rhetoric, the graphic scenes traced by a vivid imagination, the energetic defence of political principles would, however, fail to secure to Lord Macaulay that place which he deserves in the memory of his countrymen, if his prodigious intellectual powers had not been allied to a still nobler temperament. It has been said by some, who must indeed have known him imperfectly and judged him

very unwisely, that he lacked the warmer qualities of the heart. Is it credible that without the highest qualities of the heart a man could live the enthusiastic admirer of all that was generous, disinterested, genial, and good; could die without one single action to be recorded of him which does not do honour to his name? No one, indeed, who has lived in or heard of the society of London in our time, could be ignorant of the animation and brilliancy of his conversation—of the fascinating influence which drew the hearers round his chair—of the varied and abundant stores of past knowledge and sudden inspiration by which he was wont to illuminate his path through life with a preternatural radiance. But it requires a more intimate acquaintance with the unobtrusive tenor of his private life to know with what sympathy and munificence he was ever ready to assist with his counsel and fortune those who were struggling in the humbler walks of literary toil; and if we were at liberty to follow him into the narrower circle which bounded his domestic ties, it would be seen that no man ever lived of a more tender and affectionate nature. Many are they who at this hour feel as we do, that they have lost one of the kindest as well as one of the greatest of their friends; and although the applause and veneration of the world does in one sense perpetuate the existence of so illustrious a writer, we cannot forget that the virtues and the graces we loved in his life and conversation have vanished for ever.'

The same year that witnessed the death of Macaulay also witnessed that of another historian, less eminent, indeed, but still of a very high and extraordinary merit. But Mr. Hallam had survived for some time his powerful intellect, while that of Macaulay appeared to be unimpaired almost to the last moment of his brilliant career.

The prosperity that marked the close of the year 1859 and the commencement of 1860 was not calculated to promote the agitation in favour of reform. But if on the one hand the

demand for it was less eager, on the other the dread of it was less violent. The question was regarded on all sides in a spirit of calmness and moderation, which seemed to promise a speedy and satisfactory settlement. Mr. Bright, having been consulted, was ready to accept the plan of reform prepared by Lord John Russell as a settlement of the question, at least for the present; and Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli, after seeing the result of the last elections, had expressed their willingness to concede as much as Lord John Russell asked for. When, therefore, it was intimated in the Queen's speech that an attempt would be made to place the national representation on a broader and firmer basis, it seemed that the time had come when this long-vexed question, recommended to the attention of parliament in so many royal speeches, and the subject of so many abortive bills, would at length be discussed in a calm and business-like spirit, and that a practical and moderate measure would be carried through with the acquiescence of all parties.

This hopeful state of things was farther improved by the knowledge that Mr. Cobden was engaged as the plenipotentiary of the English government in negotiating a commercial treaty with France based on free-trade principles, calculated to give an enormous impulse to the trade between the two countries, and to unite them by ties that would render a war between them almost impossible. With Mr. Gladstone as the chief finance-minister of the country, and Mr. Cobden as the negotiator of the treaty, both acting together with the most cordial unanimity, the strongest confidence was felt that it would prove highly advantageous to this country; and this confidence was strengthened by the fact that the emperor had warmly embraced the principles of free-trade, and was determined to use the power which his position gave him to overcome the strong opposition which the attempt to apply them was sure to encounter in France. The treaty was signed on the twenty-third of January, and was soon after laid before the two Houses.

Such were the favourable auspices under which the session of 1860 commenced. It was opened by the Queen in person, with a ceremonial far more brilliant and an attendance more numerous and enthusiastic than had been witnessed for many years. Ministers evinced their desire to carry forward the business of the session as speedily as possible by fixing its beginning for the 24th of January, ten days earlier than the usual time, by announcing that the financial statement would be made on the 6th of February, and the reform bill brought forward on the 20th.

The budget was postponed from the day originally fixed for its introduction, on account of the indisposition of the chancellor of the exchequer; but on the 10th of February he was sufficiently recovered to be able to introduce it. The delay that thus occurred whetted the public patience for a statement which it was known beforehand would derive peculiar importance from the treaty which had been negotiated in France, and the fiscal changes which it would render necessary. Accordingly, when Mr. Gladstone rose the House and all its approaches were crowded, and he was received with loud and cordial cheers, not from the ministerial benches only, but from all parts of the house. Great as had been the interest with which his former statements had been received, this one excited higher expectations, and was listened to with a still more breathless attention.

It was, indeed, a speech of much historical value; and it so fully and clearly describes the great changes which affected beneficially not this country only, but France at least equally, and, we may say, the whole world, that we cannot better carry forward our narrative of events than by quoting largely from it. In the midst of the anxious expectation and deep interest which prevailed, Mr. Gladstone rose, and thus addressed the House of Commons, which had resolved itself into a committee of ways and means:

'Sir, public expectation has long marked out the year 1860

as an important epoch in British finance. It has long been well known that in this year, for the first time, we were to receive, from a process not of our own creation, a very great relief in respect of our annual payments of interest upon the national debt; a relief amounting to no less a sum than 2,146,000*l.*; a relief such as we never have known in times past, and such as I am afraid we never shall know in time to come. Besides that relief, other and more recent arrangements have added to the importance of this juncture. A revenue of nearly 12,000,000*l.* a year, levied by duties on tea and sugar, which still retain a portion of the additions made to them on account of the Russian war, is about to lapse absolutely on the 31st of March, unless it shall be renewed by parliament. The income-tax act, from which during the financial year we shall have derived a sum of between 9,000,000*l.* and 10,000,000*l.*, is likewise to lapse at the very same time, although an amount not inconsiderable will still remain to be collected in virtue of the law about to expire. And lastly, an event of not less interest than any of these, which has caused public feeling to thrill from one end of the country to the other—I mean the treaty of commerce with France, which my noble friend the foreign minister (Lord John Russell) has just laid on the table—has rendered it a matter of propriety, nay almost of absolute necessity, for the government to request the House to deviate, under the peculiar circumstances of the case, from its usual, its salutary, its constitutional practice of voting the principal charges of the year before they proceed to consider the means of defraying them; and has induced the government to think they would best fulfil their duty by inviting attention on the earliest possible day to those financial arrangements for the coming year, which are materially affected by the treaty with France, and which, though they reach considerably beyond the limits of the treaty, yet, notwithstanding, can only be examined by the House in a satisfactory manner when examined as a whole. This must be our apology, if any

apology is needed, for asking parliament at this unusually early period to take into its earnest consideration the matters which I am about to submit to it.'

Mr. Gladstone proceeded to state that the results of the year from a financial point of view had been eminently satisfactory, as far as the receipts were concerned. Going through the various branches of revenue, he showed the following general result — that whereas it had been estimated to produce 69,460,000*l.*, it had actually produced at least 70,578,000*l.* Turning then to the expenditure, after going through its various leading items, he stated as the general result, that whereas the estimated charges of the year were 69,270,000*l.*, the total expenditure of the year, apart from certain disturbing causes, would probably be about 68,953,000*l.*; thus giving a surplus of income over expenditure of not less than 1,625,000*l.* From this amount, however, he found himself obliged to deduct expenses incurred by the additional charges caused by the Chinese expedition and the treaty with France, amounting together to 1,810,000*l.*, which would have placed the government on the wrong side of the account but for the payment of a debt due by Spain of 500,000*l.*, half of which sum would come to the credit of revenue before the 31st of March, leaving a surplus of 65,000*l.* He then proceeded to estimate the income and expenditure of the year 1860-1; and concluded by arriving at an apparent deficit of 9,400,000*l.*, to the amount of which he proposed to add largely by making great commercial reforms, which would increase the wealth of the nation, and enable it better to bear, as in past years it had better borne, the heavy burdens that must be laid on it; and he proposed to meet the deficiency thus largely augmented, by continuing the income-tax, and by renewing for another year the tea and sugar duties at the present high rates of one shilling and fivepence per lb. on tea, and about three shillings per cwt. on sugar, and by the expected operation of the new French treaty, to which he referred in the following terms:

'Perhaps, sir, as the committee had not yet had an opportunity of reading the instrument itself, it may be convenient that I should in the first place state to them very briefly its principal covenants. First, I will take the engagements of France. France engages to reduce the duty on English coal and coke, from the 1st of July 1860; on bar and pig iron and steel, from the 1st of October 1860; on tools and machinery, from the 1st of December 1860; and on yarns and goods in flax and hemp, including, I believe, jute—this last an article comparatively new in commerce, but one in which a great and very just interest is felt in some great trading districts,—from the 1st of June 1861. That is the first important engagement into which France enters. Her second and greater engagement is postponed to the 1st of October 1861. I think it is probably in the knowledge of the committee that this postponement is stipulated under a pledge given by the government of France to the classes who there, as here, have supposed themselves to be interested in the maintenance of prohibition. On the 1st of October, then, in the year 1861, France engages to reduce the duties and to take away the prohibitions on all the articles of British production mentioned in a certain list, in such a manner that no duty upon any one of those articles shall thereafter exceed thirty per cent. *ad valorem*. I do not speak of articles of food, which do not materially enter into the treaty; but the list to which I refer, sir, includes all the staples of British manufacture, whether of yarns, flax, hemp, hair, wool, silk, or cotton—all manufactures of skins, leather, bark, wood; iron and all other metals; glass, stoneware, earthenware, or porcelain. I will not go through the whole list; it is indeed needless, for I am not aware of any great or material article that is omitted. France also engages to commute those *ad-valorem* duties into rated duties bya separate convention, to be framed for the purpose of giving effect to the terms I have described. But if there should be a disagreement as to the terms on which they should be rated under the convention,

then the *maximum* chargeable on every class at thirty per cent. *ad valorem* will be levied at the proper period, not in the form of a rated duty, but upon the value; and the value will be determined by the process now in use in the English customs.

'I come next, sir, to the English covenants. England engages, with a limited power of exception, which we propose to exercise only with regard to two or three articles, to abolish immediately and totally all duties upon all manufactured goods. There will be a sweep, summary, entire, and absolute, of what are known as manufactured goods from the face of the British tariff. Farther, England engages to reduce the duty on brandy, from 15*s.* the gallon to the level of the colonial duty, viz. 8*s.* 2*d.* per gallon. She engages to reduce immediately the duty on foreign wine. In the treaty it is of course French wine which is specified; but it is perfectly understood between France and ourselves, that we proceed with regard to the commodities of all countries alike. England engages, then, to reduce the duty on wine, from a rate nearly reaching 5*s.* 10*d.* per gallon, to 3*s.* per gallon. She engages, besides a present reduction, farther to reduce that duty from the 1st of April 1861, to a scale which has reference to the strength of the wine measured by the quantity of spirit it contains. . . . . Sir, I cannot pass from the subject of the French treaty without paying a tribute of respect to two persons at least, who have been the main authors of it. I am bound to bear this witness, at any rate, with regard to the Emperor of the French—that he has given the most unequivocal proofs of sincerity and earnestness in the progress of this great work, which he has prosecuted with a clear-sighted resolution, not, doubtless, for British purposes, but in the spirit of enlightened patriotism, with a view to commercial reforms at home, and to the advantage and happiness of his own people by means of these reforms. With regard to Mr. Cobden, speaking as I do at a time when every angry passion has passed away, I cannot help expressing our obligations to him for the labour he has, at no small personal

sacrifice, bestowed upon a measure which he, not the least among the apostles of free trade, believes to be one of the most memorable triumphs free trade has ever achieved. Rare is the privilege of any man who, having fourteen years ago rendered to his country one signal and splendid service, now again, within the same brief span of life, decorated neither by rank nor title, bearing no mark to distinguish him from the people whom he loves, has been permitted again to perform a great and memorable service to his sovereign and to his country.

'The point to which I have now brought the committee in this, to them, I fear, laborious and irksome statement is this: I have asked them to sacrifice 1,190,000*l.* of the existing revenue in order to effect a relief to the consumer of, I think, 1,737,000*l.* by giving effect to the provisions of the treaty with France. That treaty would bring about a sensible reform in the customs establishments of the country; at the same time it would not effect a reform which would of itself have any pretensions to a character of completeness, and there are many other duties still remaining on the tariff of a description which we think calls for the attention of parliament, and by the reduction or removal of which immense advantage might be conferred upon the nation.'

Mr. Gladstone then proceeded to explain what he termed a 'supplemental measure of customs reform,' containing reductions and abolitions of duties which would entail at first a loss of 910,000*l.*, and give at the same time a relief to the consumer of about 1,040,000*l.* Of these the most important and the one most likely to encounter opposition—and which did in fact meet with a very determined resistance—was the abolition of the duty on paper. After going into the supplemental plan at considerable detail, Mr. Gladstone thus proceeded:

'It is now time, sir, that I should bring into one view the alterations which I have stated in detail. In doing so I must

endeavour to place clearly before the minds of the committee three separate sums:

'First, there is the entire amount of the remission or relief to the consumers by the adoption of the plans we propose; secondly, the amount of loss to the revenue which they will entail; and thirdly, the amount of compensation which will be derived from the new charges, chiefly upon operations of trade which we recommend for the adoption of parliament. The customs duties, altered under the stipulations of the treaty with France, will give to the consumer and to the trader relief to the extent of 1,737,000*l.*, and will cause a loss to the revenue of 1,190,000*l.* By the supplemental customs plan we shall give relief to the consumer and to trade amounting to 1,039,000*l.*, while there will be a loss to the revenue of 910,000*l.* The total relief will thus be 2,771,000*l.*, and the total loss to the revenue 2,100,000*l.*'

We will not follow Mr. Gladstone farther into the details of his explanation. Suffice it to say that he anticipated a probable net loss of revenue for 1860-61 of 2,108,000*l.*; a sum which would nearly correspond with the amount of relief which would be obtained by the falling-in of the long annuities.

One great effort was made by the opposition to prevent, at least for a time, the adoption of the treaty. On the motion being made for going into committee on the plan, Mr. Disraeli, having first induced Mr. Du Cane to postpone a motion of which he had given notice, moved 'that this house does not think fit to go into committee on the customs act with a view to the reduction or repeal of the duties referred to in the treaty of commerce between her Majesty and the Emperor of the French, until it shall have considered and assented to the engagements in that treaty.' This motion was rejected by a majority of sixty-three. The repeal of the paper duty, which formed a very important part of the financial plan of the chancellor of the exchequer, and which was intended to effect, a farther reduction of the cost of newspapers, was opposed

by Mr. Miles, but carried against him by a majority of fifty-three.

Lord J. Russell introduced his measure, which was entitled the representation of the people bill, on Thursday, March 1st. The simplicity of this measure presented a striking contrast to the complexity of that brought forward by the last government. It proposed to introduce a 10*l.* occupation franchise for the counties, and to reduce the borough franchise to 6*l.* The law with regard to rating was to remain unchanged, but the payment of poor-rates only, and not as heretofore of assessed taxes also, was to be made a condition of the vote. The bill farther proposed to take one member from each of twenty-five boroughs which returned two; to give to the West Riding two additional seats, to the southern division of Lancashire two, and to each of the following counties or county divisions one; North Lancashire, Middlesex, West Kent, South Devon, South Stafford, North Riding, the parts of Lindsay, South Essex, East Somerset, West Norfolk, West Cornwall, and North Essex; it proposed that Kensington and Chelsea should form a borough with two members; that Birkenhead, Stalybridge, and Barnsly should each have one member; and that Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, and Leeds should each return one additional member. In case of places where there were three members, it proposed that the third member should represent the minority. Lord John also proposed to give a member to the University of London.

The plan thus announced was received both in the country and in the House of Parliament to which it was submitted in a manner that contrasted most strikingly with the manner in which his reform bill of 1831 was welcomed. When Lord J. Russell asked leave to bring in the bill the House was respectably filled, but by no means crowded. His exposition of his plan was listened to with a decorous calmness almost amounting to indifference.

Mr. Cardwell followed, and in proposing an Irish reform bill,

spoke just ten minutes: and the Lord Advocate a quarter of an hour in introducing a Scotch reform bill. A few remarks were made, and leave was given to bring in the bill, which was ordered to be read a second time on the 19th of March. The same indifference was shown when the question of the second reading was brought forward. The debate was opened by Mr. Disraeli, who described the bill as 'a measure of a medieval character, without the inspiration of the feudal system or the genius of the middle ages.' In speaking of the machinery by which the representation of minorities was proposed to be effected, he made the following remarks, to which subsequent events have given a curious significance; 'The destruction of spirit and energy in public life would, I cannot help thinking, be the consequence, and therefore it is that I, for one, am entirely opposed to the second object which the noble lord seeks to obtain by his scheme of dealing with the redistribution of seats.' The debate on the second reading was long and languid. Such was the indifference which was exhibited with regard to a question that had once convulsed the empire, that on the night when the debate should have been continued the House was counted out. The bill too was ingeniously played off against the budget, and the budget against the bill; so the debate went on at intervals, before and after the Easter vacation, till the 3rd of May, when the bill was read a second time without a division; having been delayed partly by want of earnestness on the part of the supporters of the government, and partly by the prospect which their lukewarmness afforded the opposition of being able to defeat the measure by retarding its progress. Thus the Conservatives, who had at first supposed that the bill could not be successfully resisted, were delighted at the hope now afforded them of being able at once to get rid of a measure which they disliked, and to damage the ministry under whose auspices it had been introduced. These tactics were soon exhibited by the number of notices given of amendments in committee, evidently intended to delay the progress

of the measure. Lord J. Russell, who, whatever might be the case with regard to some of his colleagues in the ministry, was himself thoroughly in earnest with regard to his bill, endeavoured to conciliate some of the more moderate opponents of the measure by promising to make large concessions if they would allow it to pass. Meanwhile, Mr. Massey, the member for Salford, had given notice that it was his intention to move that the bill should be referred to a select committee. The indifference manifested by the legislature as a whole was shared by many of the cabinet, and certainly by the premier, who was far enough from holding the resolute language regarding it which he had held two years before, when the divorce bill was under the consideration of the house. He was more than indifferent, he was hostile. His feeling regarding it is well illustrated by an anecdote furnished to the author of this work by one of his colleagues. Conversing with a friend who maintained that the representatives sent to a reformed parliament would be men of the same standing and character with those who sat in the present parliament: 'Yes,' replied the premier, 'I dare say the actors will be the same, but they will play to the galleries instead of to the boxes.' Lord Palmerston's feeling on the question was so well understood by the Conservatives, that Lord Derby not obscurely hinted that if Lord Palmerston would remove Lord J. Russell, Mr. Gladstone, and Mr. Milner Gibson from the cabinet, he would be prepared to support the government; and it is probable that the desperate but unsuccessful efforts made to defeat the paper duty were inspired by the hope of forming a ministry composed of conservative liberals and liberal conservatives, two sections that were certainly much nearer to one another in sentiment and opinion than the men who sat round the council-board of Lord Palmerston's cabinet. There is no reason, however, to suppose that Lord Palmerston lent an ear to these overtures. Whatever his other faults and failings may have been, he was not the man to throw his colleagues in the ministry overboard, even though on some points

of public policy he differed from them widely. But it is equally certain that he regarded the reform bill with an indifference bordering on aversion. Mr. Massey, whose motion was intended to shelve the bill, was a faithful and confidential adherent whose services he afterwards rewarded; and Mr. Mackinnon, who had given notice of a motion for delaying the consideration of the bill till after the year 1861, when the census would be taken, and whose motion was the immediate occasion of the defeat of the measure, always considered that he had thereby rendered Lord Palmerston a very acceptable service. The premier, too, who was remarkable for the steadfastness with which on almost all occasions he kept his place in the House whenever any subject in which the government was concerned was under discussion, was almost invariably absent from the debates on the reform bill, and significantly silent when present. Thus, what with the obstructive policy, not only of the opposition but of many professed members of the liberal party, and what with the half-hearted support that many of the followers of the government and even many of the ministry themselves, not excepting the head of the administration, gave to it, there was little hope of being able to push the bill through the House of Commons in the course of this session.

Monday, the 4th of June, was the day on which it had been fixed that the House of Commons should go into committee on the bill. Mr. Mackinnon then moved that the House should not proceed farther with the consideratiou of it until it was placed in possession of the census of 1861; a motion which, if carried, would have the effect of postponing the measure for at least three years. Mr. Mackinnon, who for many years had been a well-known member of parliament, had, as we have already seen in the history of that year, proposed a similar motion with regard to the reform bill of 1831, and had obtained a larger number of supporters for it than was procured for any other motion that was resisted by the government; and he eventually succeeded in carrying his point, the census

of 1831 being made by the government the basis of the act of 1832. His long standing in the House, his personal popularity, but, above all, the desire that was felt by a majority of the members to avail themselves of a specious pretext for getting rid of the question for the next three years, brought together an unusually large number of members, and when Mr. Mackinnon rose to propose his motion the house was crowded in all parts; and as it was very generally believed that the government was likely to be defeated on his motion, the scene was like that which accompanied the explanation of a great measure by the leader of the government, or the introduction of a budget by Mr. Gladstone. Mr. Mackinnon, who was usually an embarrassed and ineffective speaker, and who, though a very old member of the House, rarely addressed it, was, as may well be imagined, somewhat unnerved when he found himself the centre of so much interest and excitement, and he commenced his address, amidst the breathless silence of the crowded and excited assembly, in a manner that showed he was not a little daunted by the great and unwonted interest his motion had awakened. However, stimulated by the cheers which greeted almost every sentence he uttered, he soon recovered his self-possession, and gathering courage as he went on, he made a long and very telling speech. The opposition leaders saw the effect that had been produced, but they were not that evening sufficiently strong in numbers to take advantage of it. Members were therefore put up to speak against time, and the debate was adjourned with a very prevalent belief that Mr. Mackinnon's motion would be carried. Accordingly, on the following Monday, there were great preparations for a division, and a general expectation that it would be fatal to the farther progress of the measure. Ministers, however, determined to decline a contest which had no longer an object, and to avoid what would probably have been a damaging defeat by withdrawing a bill which evidently could not be carried even through the House of Commons during the session,

still less through the House of Lords, where it was sure to encounter a very formidable opposition. When, therefore, on Monday, June the 11th, the order of the day was moved, for the resumption of the adjourned debate on going into committee on the representation of the people bill, Lord J. Russell said: 'It is impossible that the government can agree to the motion of Mr. Mackinnon, to stay the progress of this measure till the result of the next census has been ascertained. Neither can they, regard being had to the fact that 250 members have voted in favour of postponing the measure, insist any longer on urging it forward. Looking also to the impossibility of carrying the bill through both houses of parliament in the present session, without sacrificing the other business of the session, they feel it is their duty to withdraw it at once.' He stated that the delay had arisen from the necessity of giving precedence to discussions arising out of the French treaty, and defended the government from the charge of insincerity. That Lord John Russell himself was not obnoxious to any such accusation will be readily admitted, but it is not so easy to absolve some of his colleagues, especially when we consider the course adopted with regard to this question during the remainder of Lord Palmerston's administration. But something no doubt may be pleaded, if not in excuse, at least in extenuation of their conduct. The people, though by no means indifferent, did not feel strongly on the subject, and did not give the government a very warm support. It is no doubt true, as Lord J. Russell repeatedly urged, that it is better to deal with questions of this nature when the people are calm rather than wait for periods of strong excitement; but unfortunately it is only when a very strong feeling on the subject prevails that parliament can be induced to deal with them. And so we find that when the majority of the nation was coldly favourable to reform, the majority of their representatives was decidedly unfavourable; and there can be no doubt that many a member sent to the House of Commons because he was believed to be a

strong and honest reformer, was secretly doing his utmost to defeat the small modicum of reform which the government was willing to concede, because they knew that the adoption of a reform bill would be followed by a dissolution. All this did not tend to raise the character of the House of Commons in the eyes of the nation at large, but it did tend to confirm the opinion that reform was needed, and to insure that when it came it should be decided and efficient.

On Monday, the 21st of May, the paper-duties bill came before the House of Lords for the second reading, and it was rumoured that a great attempt would be made to throw it out. The consequence was, that the approaches to that house were crowded, and the same kind of interest manifested as when some highly-important measure was under the consideration of the House of Commons. As the bill involved a remission of taxation, the attempt to reject it raised a great constitutional question. It was admitted that the Lords had no right to amend a money bill so as to change the amount or incidence of taxation in the smallest particular; but when the question of the second reading had been brought before the House of Lords by Lord Granville, Lord Lyndhurst, who on that day had reached his eighty-eighth year, stood up, and speaking with all the eloquence and all the acuteness which had made him a man of mark some fifty or sixty years before, contended that the House of Lords possessed the right to reject a money-bill. He produced several venerable and mouldy documents, which showed beyond dispute the fact that the peers had in past ages exercised this right, and he asked the pertinent question, 'If we have not this right, what is the use of our discussing money-bills at all?' This was unanswerable, so far as the question of abstract right was concerned; but the real question was, is it wise to attempt to revive a dormant privilege which clearly trenches on the supremacy of the representatives of the people in regard to all matters of taxation, and the exercise of which is certain to lead to its withdrawal, under

circumstances calculated to weaken the authority of the House of Lords and lower its reputation?

The opposition to the bill, led by Lord Monteagle, formerly Mr. Spring Rice and Whig chancellor of the exchequer, was warmly supported by Lord Derby and Lord Chelmsford. On the other hand, Lord Cranworth, the lord chancellor, urged that the course proposed to be taken, if not, strictly speaking, unconstitutional, was so thinly separated from it, that to ordinary minds the distinction would be unintelligible. He pointed out that in no instance since the revolution of 1688 had such a step as the rejection of a bill passed by the House of Commons for the repeal of a tax been taken by the peers; and he contended that all the precedents quoted by Lord Lyndhurst were peculiar in their circumstances and exceptional in their nature.

These considerations were disregarded, and when the division took place the numbers were:

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Proxies	14	104
Non-contents present	161	
Proxies	32	193
Majority against the bill ...		89

Thus a tax, which a majority of the representatives of the people had determined to remit, was continued by the authority of the House of Lords. The constitutional question thus raised was evidently of the gravest importance, and it was expected that the government, whose measure had been defeated and whose financial plans had been disarranged, would take the matter up warmly, and that a collision between the two houses would follow. There was therefore a very general expectation that on the following evening some very decided step would be taken, or that a ministerial crisis would be announced; and there was all that crowding of the house and of its approaches which such an expectation usually produces; but

no little disappointment was felt when Lord Palmerston, on moving the adjournment of the house over the 23rd, the Derby-day, contented himself with giving a simple notice that he should on Thursday the 24th move for the appointment of a select committee to examine the journals of the House of Lords for precedents with reference to the course which had been adopted by that house with regard to the bill for the repeal of the paper duties, and disclaimed, on the part of the government, any intention of taking steps which might bring the two houses into collision. On the following Thursday the motion for the committee was made. It was a mere matter of form. The gentlemen nominated never left their seats, and their report, couched in bad English and worse Latin, was brought up and read at the bar of the house. It contained nothing which had not already been made known by the newspapers to everybody both in and out of the House. The real discussion of what had taken place was reserved for a future day, and it was still generally expected, notwithstanding the characteristic coolness with which the premier treated the matter, that some very decided course would be taken by the government; but the arrival of the Whitsun holidays prevented the subject from being considered until Thursday, July the 5th. On that evening a great number of petitions were presented, praying the house to maintain its right of dealing exclusively with all measures of taxation. The chamber in which the Commons sit was crowded, for it was felt that the question was one the gravity of which it was impossible to exaggerate. Mr. Collier had given notice of a strongly-worded motion on the privilege question, and Mr. T. Duncombe of a resolution even more strongly worded; but both made way for Lord Palmerston, who moved the three following resolutions;

'1. That the right of granting aids and supplies to the crown is in the Commons alone, as an essential part of their constitution; and the limitation of all such grants, as to matter, manner, measure, and time, is only in them.

'2. That although the Lords have exercised the power of rejecting bills of several descriptions relating to taxation by negativing the whole, yet the exercise of that power by them has not been frequent, and is justly regarded by this House with peculiar jealousy, as affecting the rights of the Commons to grant the supplies.

'3. That to guard for the future against any undue exercise of that power by the Lords, and to secure to the Commons their rightful control over taxation and supply, this House has in its own hands the power so to impose and remit taxes, and to frame bills of supply, that the right of the Commons as to the matter, manner, measure and time may be maintained inviolate.'

These resolutions were received with some disappointment. They touched the question at issue between the two Houses very lightly, and even acknowledged the constitutional right of the peers to do as they had done; and they pronounced a very feeble censure on the use which on this occasion the peers had made of their power. But if the resolutions were moderate, the speech in which Lord Palmerston introduced them was still more so. He admitted the importance of maintaining the privileges of the House, and declared that any attempt at aggression on them by the peers would be most dangerous, and ought to be strenuously resisted. He defended the conduct of the Lords in rejecting the paper-duties bill on the ground of the smallness of the majorities by which the second and third readings had been carried in the House of Commons; and spoke of that bill in almost disparaging terms. He was therefore of opinion that nothing had occurred to cause a collision between the two Houses, and he adjured honourable members not to adopt any course which would bring them into conflict with the House of Lords. This speech was delivered with more energy and passion than he usually displayed, and was received with significant silence by the ministerialists, but with loud cheers by the Conservatives, who

invariably showed themselves the zealous supporters of the other House. Mr. Collier, Mr. Conyngham, Mr. V. Scully, Mr. Leatham, Mr. B. Osborne, and Mr. James, all members of the liberal party, protested more or less strongly against the course that was being adopted by the government, which seemed to them ill-calculated to maintain the dignity of the House of Commons. Then Mr. Gladstone rose. His opinion was naturally looked for with anxiety and curiosity, because the bill that had been thrown out was one to which he attached considerable importance. He justified the resolutions proposed by the government, which he described as doing all that language could do to defend the honour of that House; but he added, that he was prepared to go farther, and to reserve to himself the right of acting. Referring to the precedents that had been so much insisted on, he denied emphatically that they had in the slightest degree touched the question under consideration, for there was not one of them that could properly be called a precedent. There was, he said, a great difference between the House of Lords advising the alteration of a money-bill and rejecting the repeal of a tax. The House of Commons had declared that they could spare from the revenue of the country 1,125,000*l.* of taxation, and that having an option between the tea and the paper duties as to which they should remit, they chose that which they believed would prove more beneficial to the country, though perhaps not the most popular. The result had been, that the House of Lords had assumed to themselves a power of dictating to the House of Commons, and saying that the country could not spare such a remission of taxation. He admitted that it would be very acceptable to have that money placed at their disposal; but he considered that the duty of the government to the country rendered it imperative upon them to carry out the promise which they had made. With this speech the interest of the debate ended; it was, indeed, continued and adjourned, but all that was to be said on the subject had been spoken, and the final decision of the

question was left to a future occasion. An attempt made by Lord Fermoy to push the matter farther was defeated by a majority of thirty-nine.

For some time past the invasion panic had been gaining strength, and was fomented by a man, who of all others ought to have known better; Lord Palmerston, who had embroiled himself with Lord John Russell by his excessive eagerness to recognise the empire, without waiting for the concurrence of his colleagues; Lord Palmerston, who had all along been the emperor's man in England; Lord Palmerston, who had done so much to cement that alliance with France, which had enabled us to prosecute the Crimean war to what he regarded as a satisfactory termination; Lord Palmerston, who had in this very session concluded a commercial treaty with France;—this very Lord Palmerston was the man to come forward to propose a vote of two millions, as a first instalment of a much larger sum to be expended in fortifying our dockyards, and providing against the contingency of a sudden and treacherous attack from that government of which he had all along been the patron and the zealous advocate. It was in vain that the emperor, in a letter addressed to Lord Cowley, and full of good sense and right feeling towards this country, endeavoured to allay the alarm that had been so industriously excited, and to show by statements of facts which might easily be tested, how utterly groundless these fears were; Lord Palmerston brought forward his resolution in favour of this wasteful and wanton expenditure. In vain did Mr. Bright and a few other members protest against this reckless and ridiculous prodigality. Lord Palmerston urged forward his project; the appeal to the Gallophobian instincts of the country and of the House of Commons was responded to as it had been responded to on so many previous occasions, and after various amendments had been considered and rejected, the resolutions were carried by a majority of two hundred and twenty-nine by the same House of Commons which had set aside the reform bill in the manner

we have described. At the same time reviews of the newly-formed volunteer regiments were held in all parts of the country. Twenty-one thousand men were mustered in Hyde Park, and eleven thousand at Knowsley, the seat of the Earl of Derby; prizes for successful rifle-shooting were proposed and awarded, and a defensive stir was made which seemed to indicate that some great peril was impending over the country.

Nothing could more clearly show the hollowness and unreality of the panic than the treatment of a motion made by Sir De Lacy Evans for the fortification of Woolwich. He had just commenced his speech, and was enforcing in very earnest tones the danger in which the country was placed in case of an invasion, by the unprotected state of this great naval arsenal, when a member moved that the house should be counted. The requisite forty were not present, and so Woolwich had to be left exposed for at least another year to all the dangers against which Sir De Lacy Evans was endeavouring to warn the nation; and certainly while the money which the gallant General was anxious to spend was saved, the country suffered none of the injuries against which he implored it to provide.

The question of the paper duties was submitted to the House of Commons in another shape, on Monday, the 6th of August. Mr. Gladstone moved a resolution for removing so much of the customs duty on paper as exceeded the excise duty at home. Notwithstanding the late period of the session at which it was brought forward, the benches on both sides of the House were well filled, and there were all the usual symptoms of a strong party contest, in which the opposition hoped to be able to inflict a defeat on the government which would lead to the withdrawal of Mr. Gladstone. Great exertions were made by both parties to muster their respective adherents. One member was brought back from Switzerland, another from Beyrout; but the ministers triumphed in a House of 449 by a majority of thirty-three; and the satisfaction of the liberal party, and their appreciation of the value of Mr. Gladstone's services, were shown by the

loud cheers that greeted this victory, which were prolonged for more than five minutes when he rose to propose his second resolution.

The law reforms of the government shared the fate of their parliamentary reform. Like it, they fell through rather on account of the time required for the consideration of questions of finance than on any other ground, except perhaps the fact that the Lower House contained upwards of one hundred and fifty gentlemen of the long robe, the interests of many of whom were no doubt affected by the proposed changes, and all of whom would probably have something to say respecting them.

A strong agitation was raised by the Dissenters against a provision contained in the census act of this year, which ordered that the religious denomination of every adult through the country should be obtained. The motive of this opposition was the belief entertained by those who raised it that numbers of persons who attended no place of worship, and really belonged to no religious denomination, would, if asked the question, profess to be members of the Established Church, and that in this way the number of Churchmen, and the proportion they bore to the Dissenters, would be made to appear greater than it really was. Numerous petitions were sent up both in favour of and in opposition to the proposed religious census, and the project was abandoned by the government.

Parliament sat from the 12th of January till the 12th of August, on which day it was prorogued by commission.

Throughout the autumn of this year the negotiations for settling the manifold and intricate details of the tariff, established in accordance with the terms of the commercial treaty negotiated with France in the commencement of 1860, were ably and diligently carried out by Mr. Cobden with the French government at Paris. Great and not altogether unsuccessful efforts had been made on both sides of the Channel to excite a prejudice against the treaty; but the groundlessness of the

objections raised against it were best shown by the fact that while in England it was loudly proclaimed that our government had been duped by the astuter diplomacy of France, it was still more loudly complained in France that the interests of that country had been sacrificed to those of England. Both allegations were baseless. Each country was greatly benefited by the removal of restrictions which had shackled the free movements of commercial enterprise, and kept it down to less than a tithe of what it became under the liberal system which Mr. Cobden succeeded in establishing by the enlightened patronage and co-operation of the French emperor, who, whatever may have been his faults, on this occasion at least, deserved highly of both France and England.

Lord Macaulay wrote at the commencement of his great History: 'I shall cheerfully bear the reproach of having descended below the dignity of history, if I can succeed in placing before the English of the nineteenth century a true picture of the life of their ancestors.' It is on the principle that has received this high sanction that we venture to introduce into this work an event which, without such an authority, we should hardly have ventured to record. On the 17th of April a contest took place which resounded throughout England. An American boxer named Heenan crossed the seas to show that the new world could produce a pugilist of greater skill and prowess than Tom Sayers, who wore the champion-belt of England. Heenan was a giant, while his competitor was comparatively a man of small stature, but agile, skilful, and watchful. Almost at the commencement of the fight the English champion had one of his arms disabled; but made such good use of the other that Heenan's face was battered into a mass in which it was difficult to discover any trace of the human countenance, and he was for the time completely blinded, while his antagonist was hardly less severely punished. The appearance of the police brought the fight to a premature close. Both claimed the victory, but Sayers kept the champion's belt; and an attempt made to

satisfy both of the combatants by presenting a belt to each was only very partially successful. We mention this unimportant event on account of the immense interest it excited. Half London endeavoured to be witnesses of it; and though comparatively few of those who attempted to make their way to the scene of action succeeded in reaching it, the number of spectators was enormous. But that which will most astonish our posterity to learn is, that peers, members of parliament, clergymen, men of highly-cultivated minds, men remarkable for artistic taste and artistic power, were amongst the foremost spectators of this disgusting and unlawful exhibition.

Sayers made his public entry into the metropolis through a vast crowd, and amidst most tumultuous applause. *Bell's Life in London* boasted that the enthusiasm displayed was greater than would have attended the proclamation of a new king; and Lord Palmerston, in his place in the House of Commons, declared that he saw nothing more demoralizing in a boxing-match than in the ascent of a balloon, apparently forgetting that the latter was permitted by the law, while the former was carried on in direct violation of its well-known provisions. Sayers also made a triumphant entry into Liverpool, where his reception was no less enthusiastic than in the metropolis.

During the months of June, July, and August, there was a prevalence of severe cold, heavy rains, violent gales, and destructive floods, which gave rise to a fear that there would be a very serious failure of the crops. Fortunately, however, about the end of August, a favourable change occurred, and the harvest, though by no means superabundant, was more plentiful than had been anticipated. The peace which had often appeared to be on the point of being established with China was at length concluded; and the only war in which this country was involved when the year closed was one of a not very serious character, which was waged in New Zealand.

Never, perhaps, had the Queen of England been hailed with

more ardent demonstrations of loyalty than when she opened the session of 1861, on Thursday, the 5th of February. From Buckingham Palace to the Houses of Parliament she was welcomed with one loud, sustained, boisterous cheer. There was nothing in the circumstances of the opening calculated to call forth this enthusiasm; it was a tribute of loyalty to the person of the sovereign. The royal speech was very meagre in its promises of important legislation. On the question of reform it was silent, and the only promise of legislation it held out had reference to some of those law-reforms which had already been under the consideration of parliament. When the address, in reply to the royal speech, was brought forward, Mr. White moved an amendment expressive of dissatisfaction at the omission of all reference to the question of reform; indicating that the government had resolved to abstain from taking up that question in the course of the present session. Mr. Disraeli, expressing, no doubt, the feeling of his party as well as his own, approved of this omission, and so did Lord John Russell, on the ground that he thought it better to leave the question altogether untouched than to bring in a measure which would only cause disappointment and waste valuable time. There was a levity in his tone on this occasion that contrasted strangely with what it had been a few sessions before, when he was overcome with emotion because he was obliged to withdraw his reform bill; and this inconsistency was strongly animadverted on by Mr. Bright, who said that the humiliating position of Lord John in reference to it reminded him of the bankrupt tradesman, who, having carried on business for many years on fictitious credit, at length called his creditors together, glad of an opportunity of getting rid of his obligations. 'Why,' continued Mr. Bright, 'it is not many years ago since the noble lord shed bitter tears on the very subject which he has this evening treated with indecorous jocularity.' Deserved as this rebuke was, the course determined on by the ministry was perhaps a wise one. It was useless to waste the time of the

country by bringing in a bill on the subject unless the cabinet were united in favour of it and determined to carry it through; and it is very doubtful whether, even if they had been united and determined, they would have succeeded with a House of Commons the majority of whose members were anxious to get rid of it; and this was proved by the division on Mr. White's amendment, which was supported by only forty-six, while it was opposed by a hundred and twenty-nine.

But whatever doubts may be entertained with regard to the wisdom of the course pursued by the government in regard to this question, there can scarcely be any difference of opinion with regard to the political morality of their conduct in this respect. Lord Palmerston, after having succeeded in obtaining the support of all sections of the liberal party to enable him to expel the Derby government from office, on the ground that the reform bill they had introduced was not sufficiently effective to meet the wants of the nation or the requirements of public opinion, now threw overboard the question altogether; and his colleagues must share the blame that attached to him for this conduct by continuing to hold office under a minister who had been guilty of such palpable inconsistency.

A question of no small importance was submitted to parliament on the Thursday following the day on which the government repudiated its reform pledges in the manner we have seen. Lord Palmerston then moved for the appointment of a select committee to consider whether, by any alteration in the form of proceeding of the House, the despatch of public business could be more effectually promoted. Amongst other suggestions that he offered was one, that bills dropped in one session might be taken up in the succeeding session at the stage at which they had been stopped, instead of recommencing entirely. That in this and other ways an enormous waste of time might be prevented, and the public business greatly expedited, seems certain; and though objections were made by Mr. Disraeli, the motion was agreed to.

On the whole, the debates of this session were characterized by more than usual tameness and dulness. There were, however, one or two questions which roused and excited a lively interest; and none more so than a bill for the abolition of church-rates, which was brought forward by Sir John Trelawney. This question had been repeatedly before the House of Commons, and the divisions on it had up to this time shown an increasing feeling in favour of the entire abolition of the impost, manifested not only by the majorities which had supported proposals for effecting that object, but also by the steady rejection of every suggested compromise. But now it had been determined, both in and out of the House, to make a great effort to turn the tide. Mr. Disraeli placed himself at the head of the movement. A short time before the commencement of the session he had attended a combined meeting of clergy and laity of the rural deanery of Amersham, Bucks, at which he stated that in his opinion the question of church-rates involved the still more important question of the existence of a national church. This declaration was the signal for a strong agitation to secure the preservation of the church-rate. All members of the church, whatever their political opinions might be, were exhorted to come to the rescue; meetings were held and petitions were got up throughout the country. Churchmen were recommended to write to their representatives and urge them to vote in favour of the retention of the rate for the support of the fabrics of the churches, or at least not to vote against it. When, therefore, Sir J. Trelawney's bill came on for its second reading, the result of these efforts was apparent. The conservative party mustered very strongly. Mr. Gladstone spoke earnestly in defence of church-rates, amidst cheers from the opposition, which were described at the time as 'ecstatic.' His colleague, Lord John Russell, also spoke, but less effectively, on the other side of the question; and on the division the second reading of Sir J. Trelawney's bill was carried by 281 to 266, being a great falling-off from the previous majority in its

favour. Encouraged by this first gleam of success, the defenders of church-rates in and out of the House redoubled their exertions; and the result was, that when the division took place on the third reading, the numbers for and against the bill were exactly equal, there being 274 on each side. The speaker therefore gave his casting vote against it, on the ground that, as the numbers were so large on both sides at this stage, it was desirable to give the House an opportunity of reconsidering the question.

The interest which generally attaches to a personal question was strongly drawn out by the case of Mr. Turnbull, who had announced that he had found himself obliged to resign a position he held at the Record-office on account of the persecution carried on against him by the Protestant Alliance, which body had persistently assailed him on account of his decided Roman-Catholic convictions. The matter was brought under the notice of the House of Lords by Lord Normanby, who complained that the government had sacrificed Mr. Turnbull, and moved for a committee to inquire into the circumstances connected with his dismissal. Lord Shaftesbury opposed the motion, on the ground that Mr. Turnbull had given notice of his intention to take legal proceedings against the secretary of the Protestant Alliance. At the same time he alleged that the objection raised against Mr. Turnbull did not so much rest on the ground of his religious opinions as on that of his decided partisanship. Lord Derby, with his usual manliness, did not hesitate to run the risk of offending his Orange Protestant supporters by defending Mr. Turnbull. He justly observed that the question was not one of religion, but it was whether that gentleman had received due protection from an unfairly conducted attack. At a later period of the year Mr. Turnbull brought his action against the secretary of the Protestant Alliance, but without success; and died soon after of an illness which, if not produced, was certainly aggravated, by the annoyances and mortifications he had undergone.

The chancellor of the exchequer brought forward his annual financial statement on Monday, April 15. Although there was not now the excitement which the French treaty had produced, the anxiety to hear the statement, and the interest with which it was listened to, were as great as they had ever been before. It was a sensation in the midst of the dreariness which seemed to have settled down on the parliamentary debates of this year, even more than on those of any preceding session; and there was a strong curiosity to see whether Mr. Gladstone would attempt to carry on the system of bold reduction of taxation on which he had ventured so far, or whether, now, at last, he would not find himself compelled to hold his hands, and to tread in the steps of his less ambitious predecessors. The House was beset by multitudes, patiently but vainly hoping to obtain admission to the strangers' gallery, and the interest manifested within the house was at least as extraordinary as that exhibited in the approaches to it, and was sustained to the last.

Putting aside the consideration of the two millions voted for the fortifications at the close of last year, Mr. Gladstone informed the House that the estimated expenditure was 73,664,000*l.*, but that the actual expenditure only amounted to 72,842,000*l.* He then came to the revenue, and began by comparing the income of the past with that of the two preceding years. He stated that in 1859 there was a favourable balance of about 1,200,000*l.* In 1859 the revenue was 71,089,000*l.*, in 1860 it was 70,283,000*l.* But he pointed out that the difference was partly accounted for by the circumstance that leap-year had occurred in the preceding year, and that Good Friday and the day following had been reckoned in the one year, and not in the other.

The estimated expenditure for the coming year was 69,900,000*l.* and the estimated revenue 71,823,000*l.*; there was therefore a surplus of 1,923,000*l.* Under these circumstances the government proposed to remit the additional penny on the income tax

that was imposed in 1860, which would cause a loss to the present financial year of 850,000*l.* He also proposed to repeal the duty on paper on the 1st of October, by which the revenue would lose about 665,000*l.* This would reduce the surplus for the year to 408,000*l.* The chancellor of the exchequer then gave his reasons for not assenting to some minor remissions of taxes, respecting which he had received strong remonstrances from the trading community. He proposed to renew the income-tax, and the taxes on tea and sugar, for one year only. He concluded his speech by warnings and lessons which derived peculiar impressiveness from his character and experience.

'Now, sir, it is impossible for me to conclude a financial survey of the affairs of the country, with, at any rate, so much of effort to exhibit their details to the committee, without some few reflections upon its general condition. And in referring to that general survey, I must, in the first place, tender the expression of my gratitude for the kindness and patience with which the committee have followed me through what I may call a wilderness of figures. Sir, as respects the connection between the general condition of the country and its financial state, I must say the reflections which the future before us suggests are satisfactory. We have seen this country, during the last few years, without European wars, yet placed under a burden of taxation such as, out of a European war, it never was before called on to bear; we have seen it last year under the pressure of a season of blight, such as but few of living men can recollect. Yet, on looking abroad over the face of England no one is sensible of any signs of decay. Least of all can such an apprehension be felt with regard to those attributes which perhaps are the highest of all, and on which most of all depend our national existence,—the spirit and courage of the country. It is almost needless to say that neither the sovereign on the throne; nor the nobles and the gentry, that fill the place of the gallant chieftains of the middle ages; nor the citizens, who re-

present the invincible soldiers of Cromwell; nor the artisans and peasantry, who are the children of those sturdy archers that drew the crossbows of England on the fields of France—that none of these betray either inclination or tendency to depart from the traditions of their forefathers. If there be any one danger which has recently in any special manner beset us, I confess that, though it may be owing to some peculiarity in my position, or to some weakness in my vision, danger has seemed to me to lie during recent years chiefly in an increased susceptibility to excitement, in our proneness to constant and apparently boundless augmentations of expenditure. I do not refer to this or that particular change or scheme. Of course, I do not refer to the estimates for the year, which are in our judgment required by the circumstances, taken as a whole, in which we stand. But I think that when, in an extended retrospect, we take notice of the rate at which we have been advancing for a certain number of years, we must see that there has been a tendency to break down all barriers and all limits which restrain the amount of public charges. For my own part, I am deeply convinced that all excess in the public expenditure beyond the legitimate wants of the country is not only a pecuniary waste—for that, although an important, is yet a comparatively trifling matter—but a great political, and above all a great moral evil. It is a characteristic, sir, of the mischiefs which arise from financial prodigality, that they creep onwards with a noiseless and a stealthy step; that they commonly remain unseen and unfelt until they have reached a magnitude absolutely overwhelming; and then at length we see them, such and so great as they now appear to exist in one at least among the great European states—I mean the empire of Austria; so fearful and menacing in their aspect, and so large in their dimensions, that they seem to threaten the very foundations of national existence. Sir, I do trust that the day has come when a check is beginning among ourselves to be put to the movement in this direction. I think, as far as I have been able to trace

the sentiments of the House, and the indication of general opinion during the present session, that the tendency to which I have adverted is at least partially on the decline; I trust it will altogether subside and disappear. It is indeed true—at least, I for one should be among the first to uphold the soundness of the assertion—that sweeping and violent reductions of expenditure are to be deprecated almost as much as excess and prodigality. But at the same time there is many a one who shares that sentiment, and yet who still feels that it is demanded by high public expediency and by national duty, that we should recur, I do not say to the charges—for national wants with the nation's ever-increasing growth will vary and will grow—but to the spirit, the temper, and the rules with which no long time ago we were all wont to apply ourselves to the subject of public expenditure. Sir, I trust that such a wish may be realized; and if only it be so, then, for my part, I say that, if there be difficulties in the work of government, they are not, as far as regards the department with which I have the honour to be connected, difficulties which any man of ordinary courage need for a moment, under whatever contingencies, hesitate to face. The spirit of the people is excellent. There never was a nation in the whole history of the world more willing to bear the heavy burdens under which it lies, more generously disposed to overlook the errors of those who have the direction of its affairs. And, for my own part, I hold that, if this country can steadily and constantly remain as wise in the use of her treasure as she is unrivalled in its production, and as moderate in the exercise of her strength as she is rich in its possession, then we may well cherish the hope that there is yet reserved for England a great work to do on her part and on the part of others, and that for many a generation yet to come she will continue to hold a foremost place among the nations of the world.'

The question which had been raised between the two houses by the rejection of the paper-bill duty by the Lords remained still undecided. Should the Commons send up another bill for

its repeal, to be again rejected, after the solemn resolutions it had passed during the last session? That was a course which the public opinion of the country would not tolerate, even if the government and the House of Commons had been willing to acquiesce in it. Nevertheless great efforts were made to effect this; and the claims of tea to a remission of duty were put forward in opposition to those of paper, and not without effect. No tax was more unpopular than that on tea, which in England had come to be regarded as a necessary of life. The agitation in favour of the reduction of the duty on this article was one which under other circumstances would have been very popular in England; but now the English people firmly repelled the temptation. A very successful agitation had been carried on in favour of the repeal of the paper duties in such a way as would settle the constitutional question that had arisen between the Lords and the Commons in favour of the latter. Backed, therefore, by the strongly-expressed opinion of the majority of the English people in favour of the course he had determined to take, Mr. Gladstone, on the 6th of May, announced that he intended to include all the chief financial propositions of the budget in one bill, instead of dividing it into several bills, as had hitherto been the practice. This virtually placed the Lords in the position of being obliged to accept or reject the whole financial scheme, and in fact deprived them not only of the power that they had exercised in the case of the paper-duties, but of that power of examination and amendment of details which they had hitherto enjoyed without question or dispute, and which but for this unfortunate revival of a dormant and useless right they would have continued to retain. Of course, this was not effected without a severe struggle. The influence of the aristocracy in the House of Commons, though seriously weakened, was still great. There were a large number of members in the lower House who were heirs-apparent, presumptive or expectant, of some peerage, and who were consequently anxious to defend the privileges and prerogatives of an assembly of which they would probably be

members. A still larger number were returned by constituencies over which members of the aristocracy exercised an indirect and unavowed but still very powerful influence; to this must be added the social influence which the Lords possessed; and lastly the fact, that whenever a question arose between the two Houses, the conservative party almost to a man was ready to support the claims of the peers. But on this occasion the leader of the conservative party possessed another advantage, of which he made great use.

Lord Derby, during his brief term of office, had earned no small amount of popularity among the Irish, and especially the Irish Catholics, by obtaining a grant towards the maintenance of a mail-packet service between the port of Galway and the United States. It was hoped that this service would prove a source of wealth, not only to Galway itself and the neighbouring districts, but also to the whole of that part of Ireland in which it is situated. When, therefore, the grant that had been made for this purpose was withdrawn by the government of Lord Palmerston, and the visions of prosperity which had been conjured up in the minds of the Irish people were dashed and dispelled, great was the indignation excited throughout Ireland, and especially the parts of Ireland which had expected to profit most largely by the scheme. The consequence was, that the government had become exceedingly unpopular in the sister country; and no effort was spared by many who had hitherto been reckoned amongst its supporters to place it in a minority, and bring Lord Derby back into office before the withdrawal of the grant had been irrevocably effected. A priest named Daly, who had been mainly instrumental in obtaining the grant, was energetically active in his efforts to secure its continuance. He came over armed with credentials from men of all parties, and used his utmost exertions to cajole or intimidate the Irish liberal members into giving their support to the conservative party, and it was hoped that if they could succeed in defeating the government, they would, in case of a dissolution, gain a large accession of strength in Ireland.

A great effort, therefore, was made to defeat the plan of the chancellor of the exchequer. It was strongly opposed by Mr. Disraeli. Lord Robert Cecil especially distinguished himself by the violence of his attacks on the government, denouncing the bill as designed to avenge a special political defeat, to gratify a special pique, and to gain the doubtful votes of a special political section; and making a vehement attack on Mr. Gladstone. On the other hand Sir J. Graham, though suffering from a disease which in less than six months after carried him off, came down to the House, expressed his warm approval of the course taken by the government, and spoke with remarkable earnestness and eloquence in favour of the bill. When the House divided, the numbers were:—

For the bill	296
Against	281
Majority in favour of the government ...	15

There can be no doubt that the efforts of the numerous penny papers which had been started in anticipation of the reduction of the duty, and could not be profitably carried on so long as it remained unrepealed, contributed in no small degree to this result. Mr. Disraeli, finding that by attempting to continue the contest he would only expose himself to a still more signal defeat, wisely gave way; and the peers were obliged to submit.

The bankruptcy bill, one of the few government measures promised in the Queen's speech, was brought in by the attorney-general, Sir R. Bethell, and passed through both Houses; but so altered in form, that its framer declared that it had not one valuable feature left in it. He soon after became Lord Westbury and lord chancellor, that office having been rendered vacant by the sudden death of Lord Campbell. The question of reform was raised in this session by the motion of Mr. Locke King for lowering the county franchise to a 10*l.* qualification,

and that of Mr. Baines for reducing the borough franchise to 6*l.*, but both of these proposals were summarily rejected.

The civil war which had broken out in the United States of America seemed at this time not unlikely to terminate in the formation of two separate republics; one composed of the free states of the North, and the other of the slave states of the South. It does not fall within the province of this History to trace the course of that great struggle, except so far as it affected our own country, which it did to a very considerable extent. The quarrel had its origin in the persevering efforts of the opponents of slavery in the North to obtain the abolition of that institution throughout the Union. These efforts had gained a great triumph in the election for the first time of an anti-slavery president of the Union in the person of Abraham Lincoln. This event caused much consternation throughout the slave states, and was the signal for the preparation for a mighty effort on the part of the slaveholders to separate themselves from the free states; the result was, that on the 20th of December, 1860, the state convention of South Carolina, sitting at Charleston, adopted an ordinance dissolving the connection between that state and the other states of the Union, and took measures to resist any attempt to enforce the authority of the government of the United States over the province. The example thus set was followed in the course of 1861 by the states of Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, North Carolina, which, one after another, gave in their adhesion to the rebellion. President Buchanan, who was in office when the secession commenced, was strongly Southern in his sympathies; and instead of taking prompt and vigorous measures to suppress the rebellion in its infancy, he temporized with it, hoping that some solution of the difficulty might be found without recourse to arms. His successor took a more decided course, and prepared, with the zealous assistance of his ministers, to maintain the authority of the central government in all parts of the

United States. Meanwhile the rebellious states had formed themselves into a confederation, of which Mr. Jefferson Davis was appointed the first president. The two parties were mustering their forces, and preparing for a war which it seemed probable would be long and bloody. It might have been anticipated that, as this was a struggle into which the Southern states had entered with the avowed object of maintaining and perpetuating slavery within their borders, the feeling in favour of the Northern states in England would have been strong and unanimous, and that the sympathy of the English government and of the English people would have gone with the enemies of an institution of which England had so long been the foremost opponent. This, however, was very far from being the case. The majority of the English people had not forgotten many displays of arrogance that had been made by the government of the States, and many alarms of war, which, though groundless, were not altogether unfounded; and they were rather disposed to welcome the humiliation of the United States than to rejoice at the prospect of the liberation of the vast number of negroes who were held in bondage throughout the Southern confederacy. It is true that a considerable part of the nation, and especially of the working classes, was superior to this unworthy jealousy, and gave an unalloyed sympathy to the North; but a large portion of the government, of the aristocracy, of the middle classes, and not a few also of the lower orders, strongly sympathized with the South, and seemed to abjure that spirit which had sacrificed twenty millions to purchase freedom for the slave throughout the British dominions, and had compelled our government to make such costly sacrifices in order to put down the slave-trade and slavery in other parts of the world. When, therefore, intelligence reached England that the Southerners had achieved a signal success at the battle of Bull's Run, and had pursued their flying and panic-stricken opponents almost into Washington, the news was received with general satisfaction; and when it was found,

later in the year, that a United States war-vessel, the San Jacinto, commanded by Captain Wilkes, had stopped the Trent, West-Indian steamer, and with needless insolence had forcibly taken Messrs. Mason, Slidell, M'Farland, and Eustis, who were on board her and under the protection of the British flag, a thrill of patriotic emotion passed through the country. Indignation was mingled with astonishment. The sensational announcements put forth by the newspapers, such as 'Outrage on the British Flag,' increased the feeling that the act itself, and the manner in which it had been carried out, was calculated to awaken. 'What!' said the men who had been accustomed to sing 'Rule, Britannia!' 'England insulted on the sea, and by the Americans, whose insolence we have so often endured! Now is the time to draw the sword and throw away the scabbard.' Some voices timidly suggested that perhaps, after all, Captain Wilkes had right on his side, and that though he had undoubtedly behaved with swaggering insolence, he had only done what he was authorized by international law to do, and what certainly had been done before, with at least equal insolence, by many an English captain. The highest legal authorities were consulted; and there was a moment of hushed and anxious suspense, until they gave a distinct opinion that the action of Captain Wilkes was illegal. This opinion was received with loud exultation. It was forgotten that the American legal authorities might deliver an opposite opinion to that given by our legists. It was forgotten that the South was fighting for slavery, and the North for freedom. It was forgotten that in the southern port of Savannah, Captain Vaughan, the commander of a British vessel, guilty of no other crime than that of entertaining a man of colour at dinner, had been seized on board his ship, torn from the arms of his wife, and then tarred and feathered. All these things were buried in oblivion; and from one end of the country to the other there was one loud and almost unanimous cry for war and vengeance. Messrs. Bright and Cobden stood alone among our public men,

in resisting the war mania that prevailed throughout the country. Lord Palmerston, on the other hand, put himself at the head of the movement, and by his acts and language stimulated the prevalent feeling. It was noticed that there was a marked difference between his tone and that of Lord John Russell when they referred to the subject. However, both the prime minister and the foreign secretary were carried away by the general feeling. A despatch was at once forwarded to Lord Lyons, the British minister at Washington, instructing him peremptorily to demand the liberation of the four gentlemen who had been taken out of the Trent, with a suitable apology for the insult which had been inflicted on the British flag. By another despatch he was instructed to allow the American government a delay of only seven days to deliberate on the course they would adopt, and was directed to leave Washington with all the members of his legation, and repair to London with the archives of the embassy, if an answer was not given within the stipulated time, or if any other answer should be given except a promise of compliance with the demands of the British government. This message was supported by France, Austria, and Prussia, in a manner which showed that the view taken of the affair by these great powers was in accordance with that of our own government, and that they were therefore prepared to give a moral if not a material support to the efforts that England might make to obtain redress. Without waiting for a reply the British government made immediate preparations for war. Though winter was coming on, the Guards and other troops were hurried off to Canada; and their departure was accompanied by loud cheering and other manifestations which showed that the war would be popular, at least at its commencement. The American mob, even more foolish than the London mob, demanded that the captives should be retained. The American congress passed a vote of thanks to Captain Wilkes; but the American government wisely yielded, and the gentlemen who had been taken out of the Trent were

sent back in a British ship of war, and restored to the protection of the British flag; and so the war clouds, which at one time looked so black and thunderous, rolled away, not a little to the disappointment of many, who would gladly have taken advantage of the difficulties of the United States in order to cripple their power permanently.

Towards the close of this year an event occurred which spread sorrow and mourning through the land, from the palace of the sovereign to the cottage of the lowest and poorest of her subjects. On the 8th of December the *Court Circular* stated that the Prince Consort had been confined to his apartments by a feverish cold and pains in the limbs. Little importance, however, was attached to this announcement, which was supposed to point to nothing more than an ordinary cold. Little more uneasiness was caused by the issue of a formal bulletin on Wednesday, the 11th of December, informing the public that his royal highness was suffering from fever, unattended by unfavourable symptoms, but likely to continue for some time. It was therefore a terrible surprise to the Londoners when, on Sunday morning, just after midnight, the great bell of St. Paul's, booming through the deep silence, spread far and wide the tidings that the consort of the queen was dead. But, though the nation generally was wholly unprepared for the event, it had been known some time before to the queen, to the family, and to the court, that the danger was imminent. His worth and his services were most strongly attested by the grief of the illustrious lady who had enjoyed the best opportunities of appreciating them, and who described herself with the simple truthfulness of grief, as 'the heart-broken Queen of England.' What made the loss more terrible was that the prince was in the prime of life, being only forty-one years of age, and having up to the time of this illness enjoyed excellent health, which, combined with temperate and regular habits, seemed to give promise of a long life. England lost in him the consort of her queen, and the father of her line of future kings.

The deceased prince was a man of great and varied accomplishment. The speeches delivered by him on several public occasions showed that his naturally reflective mind had largely profited by the lessons of German philosophy received in his youth. He was a warm and discriminating patron of art, and he loved the society of men of genius. He took a scientific and intelligent interest in agriculture. He entertained sound and elevated views with regard to the industrial progress of the country of his adoption, which were conspicuously manifested, as we have already seen, in the part he took in promoting the Great Exhibition of 1851. That of 1862 was even more completely his work, though he did not live to witness its commencement.

His death was a terrible blow to the queen. By it she lost her best adviser, the natural guardian of her children, her devoted friend and companion, the joy of her life, the solace of her many anxieties. A few months before, she had lost her mother; she now endured a more cruel blow in the loss of her husband. Her great consolation under this affliction was in the comforts of religion, in the love of her family, and the warm sympathy of her people, to whom her private virtues, no less than the faithful and conscientious discharge of her public duties as a constitutional queen, had greatly endeared her. It was felt that this was in no small degree owing to the wise counsels she had received from the deceased prince; and this conviction served to increase the sympathy which was felt for her, as well as the regret with which the loss of her consort was regarded. His funeral, though conducted with all due ceremonial, was strictly private. The sorrow of the bereaved queen was too deep to bear the trial of a public interment.

This great calamity was shortly after followed by another, which sent a second wave of sorrow through the nation. On the 16th of January, 1862, upwards of two hundred men and boys were buried alive in the Hartley mine, near North Shields. A huge beam, which formed part of the pumping apparatus

gave way, and falling down the shaft below, crushed to death five men who were ascending at the moment of the accident, and so completely choked the mouth of the pit as to render all ingress and egress impossible. Instantly every effort was put forth to clear away the rubbish, and relieve those who were imprisoned in the mine; but several days and nights of hard and continuous labour, rendered more difficult by the deadly vapours which rose from the interior, passed before an entrance into the mine could be effected. When at length an opening was made the silence of death prevailed throughout the workings. The miners were found lying in rows, with calm placid countenances; here boys were reposing on the shoulders of their fathers, there a youth clasped with his arm the neck of his brother. Some had scratched messages to their surviving relatives on the flasks and boxes they carried. In a book taken from the pocket of one of them was found the following memorandum, which told in its simple way how calmly and religiously he and his comrades had met the last enemy: 'Friday afternoon, half-past two o'clock. Edward Armstrong, Thomas Gledson, John Hardie, Thomas Bell, and others, took extremely ill. We had also a prayer-meeting at a quarter to 2, when Tibbs, H. Sharp, J. Campbell, H. Gibson, and William Palmer . . . . Tibbs exhorted to us again, and Sharp also.' It is useless to attempt to picture the grief of the village, in which there was hardly a family of which some member had not perished. The sorrow-stricken queen roused herself from her own grief to express the sympathy she felt for the humble women, whom this accident had plunged in a sorrow like her own. A letter of consolation which she sent was read to them by the clergy of the neighbourhood, and was stated to have had a great effect in alleviating their affliction. A subscription for the relief of the widows and orphan children of those who had perished amounted to upwards of 81,000*l*. The inspectors of mines had frequently recommended that every mine should have at least two shafts. Had this recommendation been

attended to, the lives of the unfortunate workmen would have been saved. But the proprietors of the mines pleaded that the expense would be too great; and the consequence was that neither man nor child escaped.

The session of 1862 commenced under very sorrowful auspices. The grief of the bereaved queen cast a shadow of gloom and sadness over the opening of the parliament. She of course did not appear, and the commissioners who represented her on this occasion seemed to steal down to the House as though engaged in something they almost felt to be wrong. There was not only an absence of ceremonial, but an absence of the stir and curiosity which even an opening of the session by commission ordinarily excites; and the topic which alone monopolised the attention of both houses was the great loss which both the sovereign and the nation had sustained. The gloom which pervaded parliament at the commencement of the session seemed to settle down on it and overhang it throughout its continuance; which was characterised by a marked absence of political excitement and party struggles, and an evident desire on every side, not only in the legislature, but throughout the kingdom—to spare the queen all needless pain and anxiety in the first months of her bereavement. A subscription for a national memorial to the deceased prince was set on foot; and as it had been suggested that the choice of the memorial should be left to the queen, it was announced that her majesty would not shrink from the performance of this melancholy duty, but would be guided in discharging it by the advice of those who were best qualified to give an opinion on the subject.

The civil war in America was now beginning to make itself deeply felt in this country. In the first quarter of the year our exports to the States had diminished from 21,667,000*l.* to 9,058,000*l.*, being a difference of no less than 12,609,000*l.* This alone must have produced a great derangement of monetary and commercial affairs, and the necessary accompaniment of that derangement in the enforced idleness and distress of

large masses of the working population. But this class was still more affected by the sudden and almost entire cessation of the importation of cotton from America, whence the greater part, and certainly by far the best part, of our supplies of that article had hitherto been drawn. To these causes of distress was to be added the effect of a partial failure of the crops in the last harvest, which, though good in quality, was deficient in quantity. All these circumstances tended to dry up the resources of the country, and greatly to lessen its revenues. And yet, such was the almost magical success which had attended Mr. Gladstone's financial operations and the treaty which Mr. Cobden had negociated with France, that notwithstanding all the disadvantages and depressing circumstances we have enumerated, the revenue showed an increase of no less than 2,000,000*l.*; and while our trade with the United States had so seriously diminished, that with France had increased within the period of a single year from 2,190,000*l.* to 6,910,000*l.*

This increase of revenue was balanced by a nearly corresponding increase of expenditure, chiefly owing to the affair of the Trent, through which this country obtained satisfaction for its wounded honour at a cost of upwards of a million of money; so that when the chancellor of the exchequer made up his accounts he found that the sum at his disposal was only 150,000*l.* With a balance so small; with a war in America that had already produced much distress in the manufacturing districts, and the continuance of which was certain to be attended by a rapid increase of that distress; with the danger of the country being involved, as she had already so nearly been, in war—with all these difficulties and perils before him, it would have been in the highest degree rash in the chancellor of the exchequer to attempt to carry out bold financial operations such as had so favourably distinguished his previous budgets. He was therefore compelled to content himself with a few changes in the incidence of taxation, such as the replacement of the duties on hops by an

increase of brewers' licenses, and a lowering of the duty on playing cards.

The necessity that existed for the erection of new law-courts had long been felt. Those which were in existence were inconvenient in point of arrangement, insufficient in regard to size, and miserably mean in appearance both externally and internally, utterly unworthy of the great, venerable, and historic tribunals of England, and disfigurements of the magnificent palace of the legislature, to which they clung like parasitic excrescences, marring the beauty of the building, and requiring to be removed in order that its fair proportions might be duly appreciated. It was felt also that when the erection of the new law-courts did take place, it was desirable that they should be worthy of the great purpose to which they were devoted, and should have all requisite accommodation. This could only be effected at an expense so vast that, in the present state of the finances, the government might well hesitate to sanction it, but fortunately there was a large sum of money disposable for this purpose. Certain funds in chancery had accumulated during a long period, the greater part of which was never likely to be claimed. It was proposed that they should be appropriated to the erection of new courts, and a bill was brought into parliament sanctioning this application of them, on condition that if the owners of any portion should come forward and substantiate their claim, they should receive the amount due to them. To this it would seem that there could be no valid objection. No application of the money could be more proper, and it was exceedingly unlikely that any claimants for it would now appear. But the spirit of party and personal hostility interfered to defeat the project. It was known to be a favourite plan of the lord chancellor, who was very unpopular with the legal profession generally, and especially with some of its leading members. When, therefore, the question of the second reading of the measure was brought forward in the House of Commons the lawyers mustered in great force, and the discussion was carried on with

all the excitement which is generally raised by a debate into which personal feeling largely enters. Mr. Selwyn moved an amendment, on which a division was called for. When the paper containing the numbers was handed in, Mr. Brand (one of the tellers on the government side) gave it to Mr. Selwyn, the mover of the amendment, and one of the tellers on the opposite side. This, according to the usual parliamentary practice, was supposed to denote that there was a majority in favour of the amendment. The opposition thereupon raised a loud shout of triumph; but their exultation was somewhat damped when the announcement was read, from which it appeared that the numbers for and against the amendment were exactly equal. The speaker was about to give his casting vote on the side of the government, when it was discovered that a gentleman in full evening dress had been unable to find his way through the division turnstile into the House. He was therefore brought before the speaker, and asked which way he intended to vote. He replied that he should vote against the amendment; thus causing it to be rejected by a majority of one vote. It is usual when an amendment has been rejected to allow the original motion to pass. But the peculiar circumstances that had attended the preceding division induced the opponents of the bill to make another attempt to get rid of it on the second reading, which they had good reason to believe would be successful; for they had ascertained that two of the members who voted against the amendment would not vote in favour of the second reading. The excitement was now tremendous on both sides; and it increased when, at this critical moment, a government official entered the house and reinforced his party. However, just as the doors were being closed, a member of the opposition slipped through them. Thus in the division the opponents of the bill were in a majority of two. The exultation of the triumphant party now went beyond all bounds. They did not cheer—they absolutely yelled, exhibiting such a scene of wild triumph as has rarely been displayed within the walls of the House of Commons.

On Wednesday the 14th of May there was another remarkable debate and division on the church-rate question, which was decided last year by the speaker's casting vote. This circumstance gave an extraordinary interest to the question when again brought forward, and caused an attendance which for a Wednesday-afternoon debate was unusually large. Mr. S. Estcourt moved a hostile amendment; and when the division took place it was at first thought that it had again issued in a tie, and that the speaker would once more be required to give his casting vote. But when, amid the intense expectation of the house, the numbers were given out, it was found that 287 had supported Mr. Estcourt's amendment, while 286 had voted against it; so that it was carried by a majority of one. This small gain was hailed with great delight by the supporters of church-rates in the house. However, Mr. Estcourt's amendment having now been carried, had, according to the rules of the house, to be put as a substantive motion; and a division being demanded by the defeated party, it was carried by 288 to 271; a result which we need hardly add called forth another burst of noisy exultation. The cheers of the victors were echoed by their supporters throughout the country, who triumphantly proclaimed everywhere that a great reaction was taking place in favour of the church, and were stimulated by this success to agitate more actively than ever in favour of the threatened impost. Subsequently Sir J. Trelawney asked whether the government intended to bring in a measure on the subject, and was informed by Lord Palmerston, that they had no such intention.

A sum of 1,200,000*l.* in addition to what had been already spent for the same purpose was asked from the house, to be employed in the construction of fortifications intended for the defence of the country against invasion. It was alleged on the part of the government, that the expenditure was demanded by public opinion. It might more correctly have been described as demanded by a public panic, which the premier himself had stimulated. However, whether demanded or not, it was nume-

rously supported in the House of Commons; and Mr. Osborne, who resisted the grant, and urged that we might rely with confidence on our navy, yielded to the feeling of the majority. This question of fortifications was the subject of repeated debates; in the course of one of which Mr. Cobden distinctly accused Lord Palmerston of fomenting the alarm which gave rise to the demand for additional fortifications; and to these strictures his lordship replied in a very angry tone, attacking Mr. Cobden, sneering at the French treaty—to the manifest dissatisfaction of some of his colleagues, who had taken an active part in negotiating it—and declaring that though Mr. Cobden was a great authority on questions of free-trade, he was on military and naval matters in a state of blindness and delusion, and therefore unsafe as a guide or adviser in matters of national defence.

One striking peculiarity of this session was the large number of counts-out that occurred in the course of it. Counting-out had, in fact, now become a regular institution. There were gentlemen who had undertaken the task of endeavouring to provide that, at a certain moment, there should be fewer than forty members in the house or within call. When that object was supposed to be attained, another member slipped in from behind the speaker's chair, moved that the house should be counted; and if those who wished for a continuance of the debate could not muster the required forty, the discussion was brought to a close for that evening, and perhaps the question was shelved for the residue of the session.

The American war, and the cotton famine, as it was then termed, which had arisen from it, had to a great extent deprived two millions of persons of their usual employment, and was gradually reducing them to destitution. What the consequences would be if the war should be protracted for a much longer period, it was impossible to foresee: they would no doubt be terrible indeed; but even now they were beginning to be very serious. An enormous increase of pauperism had taken place in

the manufacturing districts. In Ashton it was found, that at the end of a few weeks the number of paupers was five times larger than it had been at the commencement of that period. At Manchester and Burnley they had increased threefold; at Bury, Haslingden, Oldham, Preston, and Rochdale, they had more than doubled; at Stockport they had increased fourfold; and in all these places the distress was still rapidly progressing, and seemed likely to continue till almost all the inhabitants of the district had been engulfed in one terrible abyss of pauperism.

Under such circumstances it seemed to be the imperative duty of the government to step in and endeavour to alleviate the misery and destitution into which the inhabitants of these districts were falling through no fault of their own, especially as they were exhibiting, amidst all their privations, a fortitude, an endurance, and an independence, which commanded for them the respect of the whole world. Never before had the working classes in any country exhibited in a more praiseworthy manner the desire to support themselves by their own industry, and to avoid being burdensome to others. And it was felt everywhere that these were persons who not only ought to be liberally assisted, but towards whom it would be disgraceful to enforce those severe provisions of the new poor-law, which had been framed for the purpose of checking imposition and curing inveterate indolence. Great efforts, therefore, were made to alleviate distress which was borne with such heroic patience. Private charity was doing all that it could. Many individuals placed money at the disposal of the clergy of the suffering districts for the relief of their parishioners. Large sums were also raised by a society, at the head of which the lord mayor of London placed himself; and great and noble efforts were made by a relief fund committee, sitting at Manchester under the presidency of the Earl of Derby. The queen gave 2000*l.*; the pasha of Egypt, who happened to be in England at the time, generously contributed 1000*l.*; and other per-

sons of inferior rank displayed a liberality no less princely. But private bounty, however great, could not meet the destitution of nearly half a million of persons, who at this time were dependent on others for the barest necessaries of life. Ministers were therefore called on to take the matter up, and not only to use the powers that belonged to them under the existing law, but to endeavour to effect such changes in it as would enable them to meet the emergency in a fitting manner. Accordingly, on Tuesday the 22nd of July, Mr. Villiers, as president of the new poor-law board, introduced into the House of Commons a bill on the subject, the provisions of which he explained to a house consisting of about twenty members. On the following Thursday it was read a second time, and passed rapidly and without opposition through its remaining stages.

The reader will no doubt have observed that this session was of the number of those in which no great measure of public policy, no great organic change was made, or even proposed, by the government. This was partly owing to the unconcealed aversion of the head of the cabinet to force on such changes; partly to the death of the prince consort, and to the unwillingness that was consequently felt to engage in struggles which might aggravate the sorrows and anxieties of the bereaved queen, and partly also to the Great Exhibition, which was opened on the 1st of May.

The opening took place under favourable circumstances. The South-Eastern Railway Company had for some time back been daily bringing from Boulogne-sur-Mer to London some 400 passengers, and foreigners were flocking in by Dover, by Newhaven, by Southampton, and other ports in proportionate numbers. The sum which had been received on the day before the opening of the exhibition exceeded by ten thousand pounds that which had been received on the day preceding the opening of the exhibition of 1851. The multitudes that were assembled within the exhibition and outside of it were enormous. But the recent death of Prince Albert, drawing after it, as it did, the

absence of the sovereign, cast a shadow of gloom on the inaugural ceremony. Thoughts of the illustrious dead and of the mourning queen would intrude themselves. The Prince of Wales, too, was in Egypt. Many sovereigns, whose presence had been anticipated, were not there. Some unpleasant feeling was caused by the determination of the commissioners, to whom the arrangements had been intrusted, to require the exhibitors to pay for their admission to the ceremony at the same rate as the rest of the public. Then, an ode having been composed for the occasion by Tennyson, and set to music by Sterndale Bennett, M. Costa refused to lead the orchestra, on the ground of some personal dispute that had formerly arisen between Mr. Bennett and himself; and when M. Sainton replaced M. Costa at the head of the orchestra, it was somewhat angrily asserted that Englishmen could be found who would have led it as well as an Italian or a Frenchman. Half the articles to be exhibited were not yet unpacked; and loud complaints were made of the downright ugliness of the building, the bad taste of its decorations, and the unskilful arrangement and classification of its contents. The opening ceremony was conducted with as much *éclat* as could be expected under such circumstances. The Duke of Cambridge appeared for the queen, Lord Granville took the part in the ceremony which would have been performed by Prince Albert if he had been alive, and Prince Oscar of Sweden and the Prince Royal of Prussia represented the sovereigns of Europe. Through an unfortunate blunder the foreign ambassadors had not been invited. The music of Bennett and Auber in some degree compensated for the deficiencies in the opening ceremony and in the procession, which included the members of the Japanese embassy; the members of both Houses of Parliament, with their respective speakers; the corporation of London; and a great number of English and foreign notabilities, all arrayed in the costumes of the countries to which they belonged and the offices they filled. After the procession had passed through the building, the Duke of Cambridge said, in a loud

and distinct voice, 'By the command of the Queen, I now declare the Exhibition open.' The building, notwithstanding its undeniable ugliness, and the bad taste of many of its decorations —respects in which it contrasted very disadvantageously with the fairy lightness and beauty of the Crystal Palace, decidedly the most original conception of our age—was not ill adapted for the purpose for which it was designed. There was a great and marked improvement both in the quality and quantity of the objects exhibited, and this was the case especially in the foreign departments; for while in the exhibition of 1851 the number of foreign exhibitors was 6,566, in that of this year they were 16,456, an increase of nearly 10,000. On the other hand there was a diminution in the number of visitors to the exhibition, which was less than at the first exhibition by about 50,000. During the first month after the opening of the exhibition the prices of admission to it varied from five guineas to half-a-crown, and during the whole of this period it was in a very imperfect and unfinished state. It was not until Monday the 2nd of July that the masses were admitted at a shilling, which from that day became the usual charge. The distress prevailing in the manufacturing districts, and the war which was being carried on in America, no doubt had an injurious influence on the attendance. There was much difference of opinion expressed in the public press with regard to this exhibition. Some writers dwelt with complacent admiration on the unrivalled assemblage of the products of the industry of all nations; while others derided it as a 'monster bazaar,' a 'great advertising medium,' a 'palace of puffs.'

The ascents of aeronauts have generally been associated in fact and in men's minds with fireworks, tight-rope dancing, and other amusements of that nature, or at best have been regarded as mere exhibitions of audacity on the part of those who ventured to make a voyage not unlikely to terminate in a precipitate and fatal fall. But the balloon ascent of September 5, 1862, was an event in the scientific history of England,

which deserves to be recorded. Mr. Glashier, who made this great aërial voyage of discovery into the upper regions of the atmosphere, was provided by the British Association with the means of accomplishing his daring feat, and making the scientific observations which were the chief object of it. The ascent had been postponed from time to time, owing to unfavourable weather. At length, on the above-mentioned day, Mr. Glashier rose from the earth, accompanied by Mr. Coxwell, who was to navigate the aerial vessel, in which a voyage was to be made into the hitherto inaccessible heights of the atmosphere. The two gentlemen had already several times ascended together, and made some valuable scientific observations; but on this occasion they attained to a height which had never been reached before, and which in all probability no one will ever attempt to reach again. They quitted Wolverhampton about one o'clock in the afternoon; in a few minutes they were enveloped in a dense mist, from which they speedily emerged into the full blaze of the sun. The thermometer sank to freezing-point, and the hygrometric instruments indicated an extraordinary dryness in the atmosphere. In twenty minutes from the time of their departure they had risen to the height of the top of Mont Blanc. All this while they were busily engaged in making thermometric, hygrometric, and other scientific observations. Presently Mr. Glashier observed that Mr. Coxwell showed symptoms of being out of breath, which was not surprising considering that he had been actively and incessantly occupied with the navigation of the balloon. In thirty-five minutes from the time of their departure they were at a distance from the ground equal to the height of Chimborazo. In ten minutes more they were at an elevation equal to that of the summit of Dawalagiri: the temperature was now below zero. The voyagers continued to ascend; though Mr. Coxwell, still hard at work, showed signs of excessive fatigue. The balloon, which had revolved from the moment of their departure, had by its rotation entangled the cord that

opened the valve, and Mr. Coxwell was obliged to mount the hoop above the car in order to disentangle it. At this time they had reached an altitude of upwards of 36,000 feet. Mr. Glashier became unconscious; and Mr. Coxwell, finding that he was incapable of using his arms, seized the rope between his teeth, and by a movement of his head, caused a sufficient escape of gas to determine the descent of the balloon. He then roused Mr. Glashier from his state of unconsciousness. The last observation had been made at 1·54; at 1·57 he was in a sleep, from which he probably would never have awoke if Mr. Coxwell had not succeeded in determining the descent of the balloon. At seventeen minutes past two Mr. Glashier, who had risen to the enormous height of at least 37,000 feet above the level of the sea, was able to resume his observations.

Of all the events of this year, there was none better calculated to point a national and political as well as private and personal moral than the crime and punishment of William Roupell. Richard Palmer Roupell, a wealthy lead-merchant, had for some years cohabited with a woman by whom he had several children, of whom William, the hero of our narrative, was one. Richard Roupell eventually married her, and had by her another son after the marriage, to whom he gave his own name, and who of course was his only legitimate child. For many years he had been investing the large profits of his business in land; and amongst his other purchases was that of a property of considerable value to which he gave the name of the Roupell-park estate. William, who was the favourite son and the chief adviser of his father in all matters of business, was ignorant of his own illegitimacy, and not unnaturally conceived that he would one day inherit this estate. He afterwards defrauded his father of the sum of 10,000*l.*, for the purpose, as he alleged, of assisting a friend who was in difficulties. There is no reason for doubting the truth of his statement; for when he made it he had no conceivable motive for deceiving, and he seems to have preserved throughout a certain

conscientiousness, and certain feelings of honour, which prompted him to state the whole truth when he found that his crime could no longer be concealed. His first step in guilt led to a series of others. According to his own confession, he forged at least ten deeds, which he secretly negotiated, and thus raised the enormous sum of 150,000*l.*, of which, during the lifetime of his father, he expended no less than 70,000*l.* on the improvement of the Roupell-park estate. At length his father, feeling his end approaching, determined to inform his family of the circumstances we have mentioned. He said to his wife, in the presence of William Roupell, 'I must throw away all delicacy, and do it.' He then took his son into his private room, opened his bureau, took out his will, to which a codicil was attached, and told William to write another from his dictation. He informed him that his first intention had been to leave his property to be divided between his wife and children; but having since reflected on the risk it ran of being badly managed, and having confidence in his son's ability as a man of business, he had determined to leave it to him, on the condition of his making an annual payment from it to his brothers and sisters. William Roupell was thunderstruck. He felt that the proposed codicil would lead to the detection of his frauds and forgeries. He interrupted his father, telling him that he was at that moment too ill to attend to these details; that the hour was late; that it would be impossible to find the witnesses required to make the deed valid, and that therefore it would be better to wait till another day. In this way he succeeded in preventing the execution of the codicil till his father's death, which happened only a few days after. He then came to the house, and obtained without difficulty from the housekeeper the keys of his father's private drawers. In them he found the will, of which he took possession, and at once forged another will, by which the Roupell-park estate and the greater part of the property were bequeathed to his mother, and by which he was made joint-executor with her. But the signatures had to be

forged as well as the will. He therefore went to an old servant of the family of the name of Muggeridge, nearly ninety years old, to whom he gave five pounds to be spent in mourning, and took a receipt for that sum, and then carefully copied the signature into the will. He forged his father's name with the quill and ink that his father had been accustomed to use; he copied that of Muggeridge with another quill, and wrote his own signature with a gold pen; thus making as much difference as possible in the three signatures. Having done this, he went to his mother, and told her that he had persuaded his father to destroy the will of 1850, containing the words, 'My son called William Roupell'—words which exposed his mother's shame and his own illegitimacy—and to make another will, giving the whole of the property to her and himself, in full confidence that they would fulfil his wishes and intentions for the benefit of the family. William Roupell easily persuaded his mother to carry out the pretended intentions of his late father by making a deed of gift, conferring the greater part of the estates on himself. He thus became possessed of an enormous property, and soon obtained that social position which the possession of large landed property generally commands. He stood for the borough of Lambeth, and by a lavish expenditure of money he obtained the seat. His return was petitioned against; and some proposals for the compromise of the petition were received by him with a lofty indignation, which would have been very natural and very edifying in a man of unsullied virtue. At length the collapse came. By gambling and extravagance he quickly ran through his large fortune. Finding detection inevitable, he burnt the true will, and fled the country. His youngest brother, the rightful heir of the property which he had fraudulently appropriated, followed him to Spain. What passed between them is not known; but the result of their interview was a determination on his part to return to England, and meet the charges against him. He accordingly came back, attended service in Richmond church,

was apprehended, and committed for trial. His brother having brought an action against a person named Waite, who had purchased Norbiton-park farm, near Kingston, from William Roupell, the latter was removed from the place of his confinement and put in the witness-box, where, under oath, he gave a full account of his frauds and forgeries. He was afterwards tried before Mr. Justice Byles at the Central Criminal Court. He there pleaded guilty to the charge of forgery, and was sentenced to penal servitude for life. A man well able to judge of the truth of his assertion, said to the author of this work respecting William Roupell, "He obtained his seat for Lambeth by the expenditure of £10,000; and if he were released from his prison, and would expend another £10,000, he would again be the representative of Lambeth." Such assertions as these ought to be weighed. If they rest on any solid foundation, they show that much yet remains to be done before our representative system can be said to be in a satisfactory condition.*

We have already seen the distress which prevailed in the manufacturing districts; the heroic cheerfulness with which the cotton operatives bore the privations to which they were exposed; and the noble generosity with which contributions and supplies of every sort were sent up for their relief from all parts of the kingdom. But there was one feature in this liberality that we did not then remark, because it had not begun to manifest itself fully till towards the close of this year. The contributions which were sent came not only from landowners and men of great wealth, but also from those who had very little to give, and who were obliged to deny themselves in order that they might give. Out of their deep poverty many of the ill-paid agricultural labourers of the south, depriving themselves almost of the necessaries of life, supplied the wants of these whose poverty was even greater than their

* This sentence was written some years ago, but the author believes that after all the changes that have since been made it is still applicable.

own. Nor was this calamity, so nobly endured and so nobly met, so fruitful of moral and religious advantages, without its attendant benefits of other kinds. It was remarkable that during the enforced temperance of this period there was a marked improvement in the general health and diminution in the number of deaths throughout the districts most affected by the famine. Another satisfactory circumstance attending it was the establishment of schools for the instruction of adults, who gladly devoted the time thus placed at their disposal to procuring for themselves that elementary education which they had not been able to obtain in their youth. Sewing-schools were established in all parts of the manufacturing districts, by which that most useful, but hitherto much-neglected branch of female education was taught; so that many a woman who had previously been unable to mend a hole in her child's shirt, before the conclusion of the famine, became an accomplished semptress, able to instruct her own daughters in the useful art she had thus acquired. In this and in many other ways good came out of evil, and the famine left behind it beneficial as well as injurious traces.

Meanwhile the government was not idle. Amongst other means of diminishing the distress of the manufacturing districts, it attempted to secure a better and more scientific cultivation of the cotton plant in India and the other dependencies of the British empire. It also endeavoured to introduce the use of better machinery for the cleansing of it; to promote the construction of railways, and the improvement of the roads and the means of transport from the interior to the sea-board. By these efforts, aided by those of private individuals, stimulated to increased exertion by the high price which the cotton commanded, the supply was slowly increased; and though it was not probable that it would be adequate to the demands of this country as long as the civil war lasted, it served to improve our manufacturing prospects, and to give employment to many distressed factory operatives. Thus, not only in the East

Indies, but in the West Indies also, in Australia, in New Zealand, and even in countries lying outside the British empire—such, for instance, as Brazil—a great impulse was given to the cultivation of the cotton plant, and hopes were entertained that at the end of some years, if the war should still be prolonged, our cotton supply would be equal in quantity, if not in quality, to that we had been accustomed to receive. Attempts were also made by blockade-runners to obtain supplies of cotton from the southern states; and notwithstanding the strict watch which was maintained by the Northern belligerents, light swift steamers, constructed for the purpose, managed to elude their vigilance or escape their pursuit. But the cost and risk were too great even at the high prices which American cotton then commanded.

While, however, the high price of cotton stimulated production elsewhere, it had a noteworthy effect in Africa. The supply from that quarter, instead of increasing with the rise of the price, ceased altogether. The natives of those countries, like children, were only willing to work under the stimulus of necessity. The increase in the price of their cotton enabled those who carried the cotton to the shore to support themselves without labour for some time; and they ceased from working until their hoards were exhausted.

In consequence of the efforts we have mentioned there was a very perceptible diminution in the number of those who were dependent on public and private charity. The worst was evidently past; and though the factory operatives complained somewhat bitterly of the dirt and inferior quality of the 'Surat,' and the greater difficulty with which its manufacture was attended, they were glad to obtain the means of supporting themselves under every disadvantage and difficulty, and to look forward to a time when, the struggle in America being brought to a conclusion, they would once again be supplied with their favourite material. Thus there was a gradual return to the habits of manly independence by which the population

of the manufacturing districts had always been distinguished; and on the other hand care was taken that, on Christmas-day at least, every one of those who were still obliged to depend on charitable support should have a good English Christmas dinner of roast beef and plum-pudding. They were also cheered by the knowledge that the sympathy felt, and the assistance given, proceeded not from England only, but there was scarcely any part of the world whence help and good-will did not come to them. But no assistance was welcomed with greater satisfaction than that which was transmitted to them from the northern states of America, from which, notwithstanding the demands made on their resources by the war, and the irritation caused by the countenance and encouragement given to the rebel states by some of our countrymen, large and liberal relief was sent to the suffering population of our manufacturing districts.

But while that relief was crossing the Atlantic, there also came across it the voice of loud and angry complaint on account of the mischief which was being done to the commerce of the United States by the Alabama, and by some other vessels which had been constructed in the dockyards of Mr. Laird, a shipbuilder of Birkenhead, and which, notwithstanding the remonstrances of the American minister, Mr. Adams, had been allowed to escape from the Mersey, had been fitted up as privateers, and had done, and were still doing, enormous damage to the shipping of the United States, seizing their merchant-vessels, appropriating the more valuable and portable portion of the cargoes they contained, and then burning or sinking them. It was alleged, on the part of the Americans, that our government had been guilty of culpable remissness, if not of actual ill-intention, in allowing the departure of these vessels; and they demanded compensation for the damage done by them to their shipping. To these demands the English government replied by insisting that all proper care had been taken by them; that no civil or international law had been violated; that no proofs

of the character and destination of these vessels had been laid before them that would have warranted them in detaining her; and that they could not, under any circumstances, be fairly held responsible for the damage they had done. These replies by no means satisfied the American government and people; but it would clearly have been the height of folly on their part at such a moment to add England to the number of their enemies, and to force her to throw the weight of her arms and influence into the scale of the rebel states—an example which would probably have been followed by France, and perhaps by other European countries; they therefore prudently allowed their claim to remain dormant for the present, promising themselves, however, to revive it at some future and more convenient season.

Severe as were the sufferings of our manufacturing population, and greatly as our commerce with the United States had diminished, there were many indications that the wealth of the country as a whole had not been seriously affected by this great local calamity. The advantages of free trade, the results of the French treaty and of the great changes that had been made in the tariff, enabled the country to go through this severe trial with little injury, and left us, at the close of the year 1862, with almost undiminished resources.

The manner in which the distress that prevailed in the manufacturing districts during the period of the American civil war was borne by their inhabitants was in no slight degree owing to the moral and material results of societies which had been established throughout them, and which were known by the name of 'co-operative societies.' We have already seen that it was especially in these districts that chartism had sprung up and flourished, and that with chartism socialistic and communistic theories largely mingled. As the absolute impossibility of obtaining the charter became more and more evident, and as each successive attempt to agitate for it brought nothing but ruin on those by whom it was made, the thoughts of the more

intelligent of the working classes were more and more turned towards the realization of those socialistic and communistic ideas with which their minds had been imbued; and their faith in these ideas was a great advantage to them; for the magnificent hopes they inspired served to support and carry forward those who held them through difficulties under which they would otherwise have fainted. The following extract from their first programme will show the spirit in which they entered on their undertaking, and the visionary hopes by which they were animated:

'That as soon as practicable this society shall proceed to arrange the powers of production, distribution, education, and government; or, in other words, to establish a self-supporting home colony of united interests, to assist other societies in establishing such colonies.'

It is instructive to note what was passing in the mind of one of the greatest thinkers and writers of our own or any other country at the time when these simple but practical and earnest-minded men were thus engaged. Just before the Rochdale co-operators began their store at the close of the year 1843, Thomas Carlyle published to the world these pregnant inquiries, written, no doubt, some time before:

'A question arises here, Whether in some ulterior, perhaps some not far distant stage of the "chivalry of labour," your master-worker may not find it possible, and needful, to grant his workers permanent *interest* in his enterprise and theirs? So that it become in practical result, what in essential fact and justice it ever is, a joint enterprise; all men, from the chief master down to the lowest overseer and operative, economically as well as loyally concerned for it? Which question I do not answer. The answer, near or else far, is perhaps, Yes;—and yet one knows the difficulties. Despotism is essential in most enterprises: I am told they do not tolerate 'freedom of debate' on board a seventy-four! Republican senate and *plébiscite* would not answer well in cotton mills. And yet observe there

too, freedom, not nomad's or ape freedom, but man's freedom, this is indispensable. We must have it, and will have it! To reconcile despotism with—well, is that such a mystery? Do you not already know the way? It is to make your despotism *just*. Rigorous as destiny; but just too as destiny and its laws. The laws of God: all men obey these, and have no "freedom" at all but in obeying them. The way is already known, part of the way; and courage and some qualities are needed for walking in it.'

We quote these words to show how ideas similar in character, though diversely expressed, were at the same time passing through the minds of thoughtful men of very different culture. Various abortive attempts had been made from time to time to realise the ideas on which the co-operative societies were founded; but they had failed chiefly through the moral and industrial defects of those by whom they were tried. At length an attempt was made at Rochdale by men who, though extremely poor and almost destitute of book-learning, were endowed with the qualifications necessary for carrying the enterprise to a successful issue. The example thus set was followed in all the large towns of the manufacturing districts. But we shall best comprehend the nature of this great movement by fixing our attention on the origin and progress of the Rochdale society, which served as a pattern to the rest, by whom its rules and methods were almost exactly copied. It was at the close of the year 1843 that the Rochdale Equitable Pioneers Co-operative Store was first established. The new poor-law had prevented the working men of that town from looking, as they had previously been accustomed to do, to parochial relief as a resource on which, in case of loss of work, they might always fall back. The failure of the Rochdale Savings Bank, recently plundered by its actuary to the extent of 70,000*l.*, had destroyed all faith in that hitherto popular institution; and the Rochdale working men, at least such of them as looked beyond the

present moment, seemed to have no alternative left to them but that of spending their little savings in drink or hiding them in an old stocking, to be brought out of its place of concealment when the distress came on them. It was under these circumstances that twenty-eight Rochdale flannel-weavers managed to scrape together a sovereign each for the purpose of establishing a shop in which they might purchase genuine groceries and other necessaries at a moderate price, dividing among themselves whatever profits might remain at the end of the year. The views by which they were actuated are very clearly exhibited in an account which they shortly after published, of the lofty aims with which they made this very humble experiment.

'The objects of this society are the social and intellectual advancement of its members. It provides them with groceries, butcher's meat, drapery goods, clothes, shoes, clogs, &c. There are competent workmen on the premises to do the work of the members and execute all repairs. The capital is raised in one pound shares, each member being allowed to take not less than five and not more than a hundred, payable at once, or by instalments of three shillings and three pence per quarter. The profits are divided quarterly, as follows: first, interest at five per cent. per annum on all paid-up shares; second, two and a half per cent. off net profits for educational purposes; the remainder to be divided among the members in proportion to money expended. For the intellectual improvement of the members there is a library consisting of more than 3000 volumes. The librarian is in attendance every Wednesday and Saturday evening from seven to half-past eight o'clock. The news-room is well supplied with newspapers and periodicals, fitted up in a neat and careful manner, and furnished with maps, globes, microscope, telescope, &c. The news-room and library are free to all members. A branch reading-room has been opened at Oldham Road, the readers of which meet every

second Monday in January, April, July, and October, to choose and sell the papers.'

It may provoke a smile to find 'social and intellectual advancement' placed in juxtaposition with 'groceries, butcher's meat, drapery-goods, clothes, shoes, clogs, &c.' And yet the connection between these two categories of objects is in reality very close. Men must be provided with necessaries, or they will be unable to make social and intellectual advancement; and the more abundantly they are supplied with them, and the more completely they are released from all care and anxiety about them in the future, the more time will they have at their disposal for moral, intellectual, and spiritual cultivation, and the better inclined will they be to devote that time to such objects. There are, no doubt, instances in every class and in every society in which prosperity panders to the lowest passions and vices of our nature; but every advance of civilisation helps to correct this tendency—to diminish the number of cases in which the leisure and the opportunities which prosperity brings with it are abused, and to enlarge the number of those in which they are rightly employed. At all events, any person who doubts this needs only to go into one of the news-rooms connected with the great central co-operative establishments of the manufacturing districts on a Saturday afternoon in order to be convinced that there are great numbers of persons by whom the advantages which these establishments have placed within their reach are valued and employed. And this leads us to speak of the educational branches of these establishments, which in the eyes of their founders formed a most important part of them. The books in the libraries and the newspapers in the reading-rooms have been selected with a care and judgment which, considering the antecedents of those by whom they have been chosen, is truly marvellous.

It is a sort of social and philosophical commonplace to asso-

ciate wealth with licentiousness, corruption, and decay; to point to Tyre or Babylon and to Rome as proofs that the increase of riches and the consequent command of many luxuries are the harbingers of decay and the forerunners of moral and political dissolution; and in the same spirit the enemies of these co-operative institutions have been profuse in their predictions of the evils that would flow from them, and in their assertion that their prophecies have been actually fulfilled with regard to them, supported by cases in point, which they bring forward in proof of these allegations. It must be remembered, however, with regard to the cities which we have mentioned above that it was not their wealth, but the excessive inequality of its distribution, that brought them to the dust. When the opulence of the few stands out in portentous contrast with the wretchedness of the many; when on one hand there is superabundance, and on the other starvation—here riotous licentiousness, and there cowering downtrodden servility; when every Dives looks out on a thousand Lazaruses,—then it is that the wealth is the cause of dissolution and the forerunner of ruin. But the case now under our consideration is the very reverse of this. The tendency of co-operation is not, indeed, to diminish the capital of the employer, but to increase that of the labourer, and to insure a more equal distribution of wealth. One of the chief reasons why the Rochdale Pioneers became the advanced guard of a great and astonishing progress is, that they neither desired to pull down other classes, nor to raise themselves out of their own class, but to raise themselves by elevating the class to which they belonged; to level up, not to level down. 'These men,' as Mr. Cobden observed to the author in conversation about the first Rochdale Pioneers, not long before his death—'these men would have succeeded in anything they undertook.' They were men of courage and men of business. Their aim and ambition was, that the working class should be well

fed, well clad, well housed, well washed, well educated; in a word, that in the highest and best sense of the term they should be respectable. If any taint of the socialistic and communistic theories in which the society originated still adhered to them, it was rapidly removed by the practical realities with which they had to deal. The prodigious and rapid growth of the establishment at the head of which they were placed required considerable administrative ability, and it was forthcoming. To their honour it should be mentioned, that far from being actuated by any desire to monopolise the advantages they enjoyed, they were animated by a generous spirit of proselytism, which led them to put themselves to considerable trouble and expense in communicating to inquirers from all parts of the world the results of their experience, and aiding them in the formation of new societies. The following extract from a paper they printed at an early period of their history, in order to send to all those who applied to them for information with a view to the formation of new societies, illustrates the spirit of generosity and wisdom by which they were animated:—

'1. Procure the authority and protection of the law by enrolment.

2. Let integrity, intelligence, and ability be the indispensable qualifications in the choice of officers and managers, and not wealth or distinction.

3. Let each member have only one vote, and make no distinction as regards the amount of wealth any member may contribute.

4. Let majorities rule in all matters of government.

5. Look well after money matters. Punish fraud, when duly established, by the immediate expulsion of the defrauder.

6. Buy your goods as much as possible in the first markets; or if you have the produce of your industry to sell, contrive if possible to sell it in the best.

7. Never depart from the principle of buying and selling for ready money.

8. Beware of long reckonings. Quarterly accounts are the best, and should be adopted when practicable.

9. For the sake of security, always have the accounted value of the "fixed stock" at least one-fourth less than its marketable value.

10. Let the members take care that the accounts are properly audited by men of their own choosing.

11. Let committees of management always have the authority of the members before taking any important or expensive step.

12. Do not court opposition or publicity, nor fear it when it comes.

13. Choose those only for your leaders whom you can trust, and then give them your confidence.'

Of all these suggestions, that which perhaps is most worthy of attention, because it gave a character of simplicity and stability to the institution, was the 7th. It has always seemed to the author of this work that it most strikingly exhibited the wisdom and courage of those by whom this great society was first established; for up to that time credit had been the rule in Rochdale; and it is hardly possible for a person not acquainted with the habits of the place before 1843, to estimate duly the hardihood of those who established a shop for the sale of the necessaries of life in which it was a rule admitting of no exception, that every article purchased must be paid for across the counter at the time of its delivery. The moral consequences of this wise regulation were immense; hundreds of pounds, which up to the period of the foundation of these institutions went into the pocket of the publican, now went to pay for the groceries, the butcher's meat, or the clothing required for the family, or were invested in the funds of the co-operative establishment.

As a proof of the great and rapid success that has attended

the institution thus founded, we may refer to the following statistics, compiled from tables published in the almanacs of the Rochdale societies:

Year.	Number of members.	Amount of funds.	Business done.	Profits made.
		£	£	£
1844	28	28	—	—
1845	74	181	710	32
1850	600	2,299	13,179	889
1855	1,400	11,032	44,902	3,106
1860	3,450	37,710	152,083	15,906

These numbers sufficiently exhibit the progress of the society during the first and most critical years of its existence. After it had been carried on for seven years, it was found that more money was offered for investment than could be profitably employed in the store. The directors therefore were forced to consider what was to be done with their surplus capital. They could not continue to pay five per cent. on it, as they were obliged to do by their rules, when it was not yielding them anything like that amount. They must therefore either find profitable employment for it, or refuse to receive it. They determined on adopting the former of the two alternatives that presented themselves to them; and as at the time great complaints were made of the quality of the flour that was sold in the shops, much of which was said to be adulterated, it was determined in 1850 to establish a new society, to be called the Rochdale Co-operative Corn-mill Society, for which a substantial mill was erected in Weir-street, Rochdale.

The spirit by which the first co-operators were animated is illustrated by the fact that they determined not to erect the building by contract, thus incurring an additional expense of about 1000*l.*; but they cheerfully paid this difference, in the assurance that every man who had laboured in the construction of their mill had received a fair day's wage for a fair day's

work, and they added that they believed the money had been well spent, because the building was better and more substantial than it would have been if it had been erected by contract. The following short statement, compiled from the same sources as the one we have already given, exhibits the progress made by this second co-operative society:

Year.	Amount of funds.	Business done.	Profits made.
	£	£	£
1850			
1851	2,163	Account mislaid.	
1855	4,626	28,085	1,376
1860	26,618	133,125	10,164

The success of these two societies produced great confidence in the co-operative principle, and a general desire among the working classes to invest their savings in them; which compelled the leaders of the co-operative movement to consider what further employment could be found for the funds thus forced on them. Accordingly in the year 1854 a manufacturing society was formed on the same general principles as the store and the corn-mill society, and seemed likely to prove equally successful. At first they carried on their operations in rooms hired for the purpose, and on the 22nd of April, in the year 1859, they laid the first stone of a cotton-factory of their own which they completed without borrowing a penny, and with a large balance always in the bank. It was universally admitted to be one of the largest, best-constructed, and best-fitted in the borough of Rochdale, a town which was by no means behind its neighbours in the size and excellence of its factories. This great work was scarcely finished, when its owners found themselves in a position to commence another factory alongside of the first. These two establishments together cost nearly 100,000*l.* besides the amount of capital required for their working. Un-

fortunately, before they were completed, the American civil war broke out, and prevented the experiment of a co-operative manufactory from having the same fair trial that had been given to the other co-operative experiments, and which they had passed through so triumphantly. The cotton famine rendered the newly-erected factories almost useless and entirely profitless. It compelled a great number of the shareholders to part with their shares to persons who were not so fully imbued as themselves with the original spirit of co-operation, and who purchased them simply as a speculation. One result of this change of proprietorship was, that a rule of the society which gave the operatives a share in the profits of the concern was abrogated, and has never since been restored.

But these great works were far from absorbing the whole of the capital, which co-operation multiplied to an extent that seemed almost magical. In the year 1860, while the first factory was still incomplete, a co-operative sick and burial society, founded on thoroughly sound principles, and carrying on its operations upon the extended scale necessary to insure the successful working of such institutions; a co-operative Turkish bath; and lastly, in the year 1861, a land and building society, were established.

The capital of these various institutions in the year 1861 was thus estimated:

Co-operative store	£39,335
Corn-mill	29,962
Manufacturing society	71,695
Land and building society	1,000
Turkish bath	350
Total	142,342
Deduct loans from store to other societies ...	16,613
Leaving a net capital of	125,729

This capital consisted of money, or stock purchased by money, and worth considerably more than its cost price.

Now let us pause for a moment to contemplate the progress that co-operation had made in Rochdale alone within the brief period of seventeen years, which had elapsed since its first commencement.

In the year 1844 the whole co-operative capital was 28*l.* In the year 1850, which was the date of the commencement of the corn-mill, it was 2,299*l.*; in the year 1854, in which the manufacturing society was founded, it had increased to 11,144.; and in the year 1861 it had risen to 125,729*l.* It must be remembered, however, that these amounts are far from representing the whole of the financial co-operative progress that had been made in a single town. Several other societies had come into existence within the borough of Rochdale, or its immediate neighbourhood, which, though independent of the original society, and perhaps not so clearly recognising the principles on which it was founded, nevertheless received and developed the resources of the working classes, tended to raise them morally, socially, and intellectually as well as materially, and must not therefore be left out of our estimate of the progress that co-operation had made in Rochdale.

But though that period is the one on which we have fixed for giving an account of co-operation, because at this time it had undergone a full and complete trial, in a most satisfactory manner, we must remember that the co-operative principle had by no means reached its highest development even in the place in which it was first tried successfully. Since then the original pioneers society has made great and remarkable progress. A commodious central store has been erected near to the humble one which was occupied by the original pioneers, with a splendid library, containing above 9000 well-selected volumes, and a no less splendid news-room, supplied with almost every important periodical. In addition to this, there are no fewer than eleven substantial, well-built branch stores, each doing a large amount of business, and having a convenient news-room and a small reference library of its own. At the time when the American

war commenced, the example so successfully set in Rochdale had been followed in almost all the great manufacturing towns. They had provided the working classes who inhabited them with a safe investment for their savings, from which they received five per cent. regularly paid to them, besides profits; they had also taught them habits of frugality, temperance, patience, sobriety, and self-reliance; and to this it was in no small degree due that when the cotton famine came upon the working classes of the manufacturing districts, it found them prepared to bear with it with a firmness and resolution which extorted the admiration of the civilised world. During that famine the original society flourished in spite of the heavy drain caused by the withdrawal of their deposits by many of the members, who were compelled by want of work to fall back on these resources. They of course underwent much inconvenience, and during these trying years there was a diminution in the amount of their business and their profits. But this was merely a temporary reverse; and as soon as the famine ceased, and indeed even before it had ceased, the societies resumed their onward course, doing more business, obtaining greater profits, and paying larger dividends than ever. During the severest distress, when there was a kind of run on them for money, there was never the slightest hesitation or delay in paying those who wished to withdraw their savings, in accordance with the rules of the societies. And this was the case not in Rochdale only, but in almost every part of the manufacturing districts in which co-operative societies had been founded on the Rochdale model. In the year 1864 there was a new and important development of the co-operative principle. A wholesale co-operative society, established in Balloon-street, Manchester, commenced business on the 15th of March, supplying the different co-operative societies throughout the North of England. This society was a new step in the progress of co-operation, tending to connect the different co-operative societies disseminated throughout the North of England.

The principle described by the term "co-operation," has been more recently adopted by the members of the civil service in the metropolis. It has been extended, though not yet with marked success, to agriculture; to which, however, it seems peculiarly applicable, combining the advantages which have arisen from the extreme subdivision of properties in France with those which have resulted from the employment of large capitals in carrying out agricultural operations and improvements in England. It does not fall within the sphere of this work to endeavour to forecast the future of co-operation; but it is quite within its province to endeavour to interpret the true character and tendencies of the movement; and the writer of this work submits that its scope has been most fully described by the phrase which the genius of an eminent French writer has employed—"the organisation of labour;" a phrase which has been supposed to indicate something dangerous and revolutionary, but which really has no such import; meaning, in fact, that a time is coming when the constant wants of a continually increasing population will have to be met by a disciplining of industry, under which each capital will find its best employment, and each man will have the place appointed to him which he is the most competent to fill, and the work assigned to him which he can best perform to his own advantage as well as to the general profit of the community. It is an idle fear that co-operation will attack property, or try to destroy large capitals. Co-operation, by giving every man a property of his own, makes it the interest of every man to uphold the sacredness of property; by making every man to a certain extent a capitalist, it leads him to respect capital, and to perceive that if there are some enterprises that can be well and safely conducted by a number of small capitalists combining their resources to make a large capital, there are many others in which it is essential that the capital should be concentrated in the hands of a single individual, able to act

on his own responsibility. By making the same man at once capitalist and workman, employer and employed, co-operation enables him to comprehend and make allowance for the difficulties of the employer's position, and in this way tends to palliate, if not altogether to remove, those unhappy trade disputes which have often been attended with most mischievous consequences to the population of the manufacturing districts. In the next place, co-operation has supplied the manufacturing operative with a means of mental development and self-education greatly needed, and of the very highest importance. It has been remarked, and with great truth, that the continued repetition of the same operation, carried on throughout the greater part of a lifetime by the factory operative has an evident tendency, unless very strongly counteracted, to produce in him a spirit of detail calculated to lower and contract the understanding. Now co-operation provides an antidote to this evil. The man whose life is spent in making the heads for pins, or in watching the flight of the shuttle as it carries the thread backwards and forwards across the loom—finds himself at the meetings of his co-operative society in the position of a partner in a great concern, which extends its operations to the uttermost ends of the earth, and is thus led to combine a spirit of widely-extended generality with skill and excellence in detail.

The co-operative society of Rochdale was originally established under the Friendly Societies act; and those who took it for a model imitated it in that respect. But as the society increased in magnitude, it was found that the act, designed as it originally was for societies of much smaller dimensions and of a very different character, seriously cramped and impeded the operations of those co-operative societies that took advantage of its provisions. It therefore became a question with the managers of the Rochdale and other co-operative societies whether they should place themselves under the Limited

Liabilities act, or try to procure such amendments of that statute as would adapt it to their purpose. They chose the latter course, chiefly because the former would have involved them in much trouble in reference to the collection and payment of income-tax. They therefore determined to apply to parliament for such amendments of the Friendly Societies act as would adapt it to meet the circumstances of co-operative societies. Several leading and influential members of parliament aided them in the attainment of this object. Foremost among these was the late Mr. Sotheron Estcourt, who took charge of their bill, showed a very lively interest in the matter, and bestowed great pains in promoting the objects of his co-operative clients.

Before the year 1852 all co-operative societies, following the example of the Rochdale society, were enrolled under the Friendly-Societies act, which prevented them from dealing with any persons except their own members. In that year they obtained an act entitled the "Industrial and Provident Societies act, 1852," giving power to societies to carry on trade as general dealers, and to sell to non-members, but still maintaining certain disabilities, among which was that of limiting their occupation of land to a single acre. In 1855 the act of 1852 was amended by another act, which gave them some farther powers, but still limited them to a single acre. In 1862 another act was passed which was styled the "Industrial and Provident Societies act, 1862," and enabled them to hold more than an acre of land, thus putting co-operative societies nearly on the same footing as joint-stock limited liability companies. In 1867 another act was passed, entitled the "Industrial and Provident Societies act, 1867," interpreting some ambiguous clauses of the preceding act, mainly relating to the payment of income-tax by the members of co-operative societies. Since this period the act of 1862 has undergone a further amendment, by which the societies are allowed to hold land to any amount

they may find necessary, to trade in land, to build, and to mortgage. Thus slowly and gradually has the legislature permitted to these societies the same full liberty of trading which it had long before accorded to individuals, but of which, for want of capital, individuals belonging to the class that has created these societies could not fully avail themselves.

CHAPTER IV.

THE PALMERSTON MINISTRY.

DURING the last weeks of 1862 and the commencement of 1863, London was a prey to a panic caused by criminals known by the name of garrotters. Every newspaper contained accounts of robberies they had committed, either by knocking down their victim with a life-preserver, or depriving him of consciousness by a sudden and skilful application of their fingers to his throat, which promptly brought him to the ground in a state of insensibility. These outrages were committed not in dark lanes or sequestered places, but in Oxford-street, in Piccadilly, in places over which the gas shed a flood of light, and policemen made regular rounds. Such was the panic that these street-robberies caused, that people living in the most frequented part of London were afraid to leave their houses after dark, or, sallied forth armed with revolvers or other means of defence. London was almost as unsafe in the winter of 1862 as it had been in the days of Charles the Second; and the public fear exaggerated the danger, so that at night the streets were nearly empty, the places of amusement deserted, and every man as he walked along eyed his fellow-passengers with suspicion, and prepared himself for a life-and-death struggle. The papers exhorted the public to defend themselves without scruple or hesitation against these assaults. The art of boxing was revived, and became a part of fashionable education; life-preservers, sword-sticks, daggers, revolvers, and large fierce dogs were in great request. The blame of this state of things was cast on ticket-of-leave men and the ticket-of-leave system. It

was urged that our treatment of convicts was much too indulgent; that the lot of the criminal was preferable to that of the pauper and of the honest labourer; and so the question 'What is to be done with our criminals?' which had been asked some years before, was now again asked, with increased earnestness and alarm. It was a question discussed in every journal and in every society. But it was a question more easy to be asked than to be answered. Our criminals must be kept, they must be fed; they could no longer be transported; the prisons would not contain all who were sent to them. Some such expedient as that of the ticket-of-leave system must be resorted to, and there, for the present, the matter rested. However, in consequence of the universal outcry, the police force was strengthened and put more on the alert; the practice of garrotting became less frequent: the alarm subsided, and London gradually resumed its old habits. But public opinion demanded with great insistence and unanimity that henceforward the lot of the honest labourer, and the pauper whom age, sickness, or misfortune had brought to the unionhouse, should be better than that of the criminal. There was also a strong feeling that the ticket-of-leave system had been carried too far, and that a more careful surveillance ought to be exercised over those who enjoyed the benefit of it.

Early in the beginning of the year Mr. Lincoln, the president of the United States of America, took a step which elicited some enthusiastic demonstrations of approval in this country. After much hesitation he launched a proclamation ordering the emancipation of all slaves within the ten rebel states, and declaring that such persons, if of suitable condition, should be received into the armed service of the United Sates, to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to man vessels. He based this act entirely on military considerations, which he believed to be warranted by the condition of the States, and solemnly invoked the considerate judgment of mankind, and the gracious favour of Almighty God. This declaration was

regarded with very unfriendly eyes by Lord Russell, who, on the receipt of a despatch from Lord Lyons, enclosing a copy of it, wrote him a letter to be communicated to the American government, in which he characterised the proclamation of the president as a document of a very strange nature. He observed that it professed to emancipate all slaves in places where the government of the United States could not exercise any jurisdiction or make emancipation a reality, while it did not decree the emancipation of slaves in any states or parts of states occupied by the federal troops, and subject to the jurisdiction of the government of the United States, and where therefore emancipation, if decreed, might be carried into effect. He further insisted that the proclamation made slavery at once legal and illegal, and made slaves punishable or rewardable for running away from their masters, according to the locality of the plantation or the loyalty of the state to which they belonged! Hence he argued that there seemed to be no declaration of a principle adverse to slavery in this proclamation; that it was a measure of war, and a measure of war of a very questionable kind. The English minister concluded his communication by saying, that as President Lincoln had thrice appealed to the judgment of mankind in his proclamation, he ventured to say that he did not think it would or ought to satisfy the friends of abolition, who looked for total and impartial freedom for the slave, and not for vengeance on the slaveholder.

But whatever Earl Russell might say or think, the friends of abolition in England regarded this act of President Lincoln with favour, and received it with demonstrations of sympathy and approval. They saw that, whatever the motive that dictated the proclamation, its effect would be the entire abolition of slavery if the Northern States triumphed. It was evidently impossible that if slavery were abolished in the ten confederate states, it could hold its ground in the small portion of the union to which the president's proclamation did not apply. Accordingly it soon became evident that the old anti-slavery spirit

that had animated Macaulay, Wilberforce, Clarkson, and Brougham, was not dead. Meetings were held in the largest available rooms of the metropolis, Liverpool, Manchester, and most of the chief towns of the kingdom. Before the hour of the meeting at Exeter Hall had arrived, it overflowed into the large rooms below, thence into the adjacent street, out of which a fourth meeting arose in the immediate neighbourhood. All these meetings fermented with anti-slavery enthusiasm, excited to a still higher pitch of effervescence by some small and ineffective attempts at a counter-demonstration in favour of the Southern States.

At the commencement of the session of 1863, the Prince of Wales took the oaths and his seat as a peer of the realm. After having been admitted with the usual formalities, he retired to lay aside the ducal robes which he had worn during the ceremony, and then returning with the Duke of Cambridge took his seat on the cross benches, where he continued during the debate on the address in answer to the royal message. In both houses that address was adopted after undergoing some not very important criticisms.

On Saturday, the 7th of March, the prince took part in a pageant of a very different kind. On that day the streets of London were crowded as they had never been crowded before; for it was an occasion that appealed very powerfully to the sympathy and curiosity of our countrymen and countrywomen —the public entrance of the Princess Alexandrina, the affianced bride of the Prince of Wales, into the metropolis, on her way through it from Gravesend to Windsor Castle, where she was to be married to the Prince on the following Tuesday. It is needless to say that not only almost every Londoner was in the street or in some place of advantage to view the procession, but that myriads from all parts of England, taking advantage of the improved means of conveyance furnished by the railways, flocked to the metropolis. Great preparations had been made for the event; 40,000*l.* had been voted for the purpose by the

corporation of London; triumphal arches, splendidly decorated, had been erected along the line of procession. Such was the anxiety to obtain a good view of the princess that a single seat in a window was let for 30*l*. The gas companies were unable to meet the demands made on them in connection with the illuminations by which the event was to be celebrated. The reception which the youthful princess met with on her way through the city, though respectful, was boisterous and tumultuous, and several people were crushed to death beneath the human deluge that rushed towards the carriage in which she was conveyed. These misfortunes were due partly to the enormous number of those who were anxious to catch a glimpse of the princess, but chiefly to the exceedingly bad arrangements that had been made by the corporation of London, who, confiding in their own ability to maintain order, had stubbornly refused the offers that had been made them of the assistance of a body of police and of a military force. Their obstinacy and bad management caused many lives to be sacrificed, and those of the prince and princess had almost been placed in jeopardy. Public opinion therefore loudly demanded the reform of the corporation; and the government, well aware how much that reform was needed, brought in a bill for the purpose. But it was strenuously resisted by the civic authorities, and the attempt failed through the neglect of those who had the charge of the bill, to comply with the standing orders of the House of Commons. On the day fixed for the wedding, the marriage-ceremony was performed with befitting pomp, and was attended by all those royal and distinguished persons, ambassadors, ministers, and others, that such an event as the wedding of the heir to the throne was sure to bring together. But amongst all the persons who were present in that splendid and glittering throng, none attracted so much attention and interest as the bereaved Queen, who sitting in a gallery just over the altar of St. George's chapel looked down in her widow's weeds on the wedding of her first-born son. The event was celebrated with rejoicings in every part of the kingdom.

The parliamentary proceedings of this year were devoid of public interest and historic importance, with the exception of the budget, introduced by the chancellor of the exchequer on the 15th of April. Mr. Gladstone's previous financial statements had been so interesting, that the circumstance that he was to make another was sufficient to collect a multitude to hear it. But it was not possible always to produce budgets like that which was associated with the French treaty. Besides, the war that was being carried on in America, and the distress that prevailed in the manufacturing districts, allowed but little scope for the exercise of financial ingenuity. Consequently the budget was not of a character to excite great interest. Mr. Gladstone's statement was, like his budget, perfectly plain and unambitious. He did not indulge in any of those disquisitions on the philosophy of taxation which had given such a charm to his previous financial addresses. Nevertheless he spoke for three hours, during the whole of which time he managed, as he had done on former occasions of the same kind, to command the unflagging attention of his audience. The chief feature in this budget was the reduction of the duty on tea to one shilling in the pound; and as the largeness of the tea-duty had at the time of the last budget been the grievance on which the opposition more especially harped, the reduction left them almost without any ground of complaint. Some less important details were strenuously resisted, especially a provision, which seems to be a very fair and just one, for imposing a license-duty on clubs as well as on public-houses. In favour of this proposal it was urged that the club was to the rich man what the public-house was to the poor man, except that it was less necessary. It therefore seemed only equitable that the former should contribute to the support of the exchequer as well as the latter. But this reasoning did not commend itself to an assembly almost all of whose members were also members of the institutions which it was proposed to tax; and this provision, as well as one for the taxation of

charities and some other less important financial proposals, was eventually abandoned.

The remarks made by Mr. Gladstone towards the conclusion of his address on the state of the trade of this country with the United States and with France have an abiding and historical interest:

'I come now, sir,' he said, 'to consider a subject which is always of great, and which is also at this moment of painful interest; I mean our trade with the United States. It is of great interest because of its importance to the country; and it is at present of painful interest because the reduction it has undergone bears melancholy witness to the secondary action of those far greater and more frightful calamities which afflict the continent of North America. And I shall proceed to state the condition of our trade with France, because this is the first occasion of a financial statement on which I have had it in my power to exhibit one full year of the working of the commercial treaty with France, and of the altered system it has introduced.

'The value of British goods exported to the United States in 1859 was 22,553,000*l.*; in 1862 it had fallen to 14,398,000*l.*, and thus exhibited a decrease of 8,154,000*l.* The value of foreign and colonial goods exported to the United States from this country had during the same period increased. In 1859 it had been only 1,864,000*l.*; in 1862 it had increased to 4,052,000*l.* The augmentation was as much as 2,188,000*l.*; but nearly the whole of it was represented by the single article of cotton-wool, which amounted in value to no less than 1,712,000*l.* However, deducting the increase on our foreign and colonial goods from the decrease upon our own export of British goods, there remains an aggregate diminution in our export trade to the United States of about 6,000,000*l.*

'I will take next the case of our trade with France; and here it will be my pleasant duty to point to a very different state of things. The year 1859 was the last full natural year

before the treaty of commerce. In that year the value of British commodities exported to France was 4,754,000*l.* In the year 1860 the treaty was concluded, and it took effect almost wholly as regarded our imports, but on a very few articles as regarded our exports. The value of British goods exported to France in 1860 was 5,250,000*l.*; and thus showed an increase of about 500,000*l.* In 1861 the treaty took effect as regarded its provisions relating to the duties on imports into France. It came into operation late in the year, namely, on the 1st of October. A very large augmentation appeared in our exports; but a part of this was due to the concurrence of a very bad harvest in France with a large supply of corn in the markets of this country. In consequence we sent a great quantity of corn to France; but in order to a more just calculation, I shall not take this article into account. After striking off the sum of 1,750,000*l.* for an excess in the export of corn, I find that in 1861 the value of British goods sent to France rose to 7,145,000*l.* It thus showed an increase of 2,391,000*l.* over what it had been the last year anterior to the treaty. Then came the year 1862, with the treaty in operation from its beginning to its close. The value of British exports during the year now amounted to 9,210,000*l.* It thus showed an increase of 4,456,000*l.* In other words, the amount of British goods sent to France had about doubled under the operation of the treaty of commerce.

'But the figures I have named by no means set forth the whole extent of the advantage which the trade of England and France has derived from the treaty; for an augmentation of exports still more remarkable took place in foreign and colonial produce; and I need hardly remind the committee that the foreign and colonial produce which we sent to France is something that we have ourselves obtained elsewhere in exchange for British produce. It therefore follows that every increase in the export of foreign and colonial produce from this country constitutes or represents effectively a corresponding increase in the export of British manufactures. The value of foreign and

colonial produce sent to France in 1859 was 4,800,000*l.*; whereas in 1862 it amounted to no less than 12,614,000*l.* Accordingly the total amount of exports to France, which in 1859 was 9,561,000*l.*, had in 1862 gone up to no less than 21,824,000*l.* In fact, while we had a decrease in the total trade to the United States of 6,618,000*l.*, that decrease was a good deal more than made up by the increase in the trade to France, for the augmentation in the French trade was 12,268,000*l.*'

Although this speech was delivered under circumstances not so favourable as some of Mr. Gladstone's previous financial addresses; although it did not announce such great changes as those which were connected with the introduction of the treaty of peace; although it did not contain those ingenious disquisitions on the philosophy of finance which had given a special interest to his previous budget-speeches; none of them were more striking in the delivery, or produced a more powerful effect. The moment he concluded, the house, by one spontaneous and instinctive movement of approval, rose to express its admiration of the wonderful ability which, on a dry question of figures, could keep the house for three hours hanging on the lips of the speaker.

The name and the misfortunes of Poland had often stirred the heart of the English nation; but never, perhaps, had British sympathy for the misfortune of that unhappy country been more energetically manifested than by the representatives of the British people in the earlier part of the session of this year. The question was brought forward in the House of Commons by Mr. Hennessy, a conservative, an Irishman, and a Roman Catholic. Speaking with the eloquence of deep emotion, he depicted in glowing colours the writhings of Poland under the cruel tyranny of the Grand-duke Constantine; he mentioned that since the commencement of the year upwards of 14,000 men and women had been crammed into one single dungeon in Warsaw; he stated that the conscription had been carried to such an extremity, that out of a population of

184,000, only 683 persons were left to carry on the trade of the country; that the Count Andren Zamoyski had been punished by banishment for the crime of having presented a petition couched in the most respectful language; that Poland was threatened with extermination, her barracks and fortresses transformed into political prisons, the houses of her citizens surrounded and invaded in the dead of night, and the flower of her youth torn from their beds to be swallowed up in the Russian army.

These statements produced their intended effect. There was a good deal of difference of opinion as to the course that should be adopted; but there was no difference whatever in the loud cry of disgust and indignation which proceeded from every side of the house, and which made itself heard even in the palace of the czar. Mr. Disraeli, Lord Palmerston, Lord J. Russell, Mr. Walpole, Mr. Stansfeld, and Lord Robert Cecil vied with one another in the expression of their detestation of the barbarities that Russia had committed.

So far as the House of Commons was concerned, the debate ended with the somewhat lame and impotent conclusion of leaving the matter in the hands of the government. But this resolution did not satisfy the more ardent spirits; an agitation on the subject was commenced; a great meeting, attended by a large number of members of both houses, was held in the Guildhall. The language used in this assembly was more indignant and outspoken than that which had been employed in the House of Commons; but it did not go the length of recommending that we should embark in a war with Russia; indeed, such a step on our part would have been an act of madness. It was in the last degree unlikely that, even with the assistance of France, we could penetrate into Poland; and even if we could, it was quite certain that the Poles would be crushed by the vast and neighbouring armies of her powerful oppressor long before our troops could reach the scene of war. All that England could give to Poland was her moral aid; and that she

gave in no stinted measure, and with a deep sigh of sorrow that it was not in her power to render a more efficacious assistance.

A good deal of public indignation was also expressed both in and out of parliament at the seizure of British ships by cruisers of the Northern States, especially at the behaviour of Captain Wilkes in the Trent affair, and at the manner in which his conduct had been sanctioned by the congress, the admiralty, and the people. These grievances were the subject of long debates, which were carried forward in a somewhat angry tone. Mr. Roebuck brought the matter before the house, relating in some detail the substance of a conversation between the French emperor and himself, in which the former stated not only that his feeling in favour of the recognition of the Southern States was the same as it had always been, but that it was now stronger than ever; that he was ready in all things to act with England; and that, more than in any other thing, he was ready to act with her as regarded America. Mr. Roebuck subsequently withdrew his motion, on an assurance from Lord Palmerston that the matter was receiving the careful consideration of the government.

This year the defenders of church-rates gained a more unequivocal triumph than they obtained in the two previous years. As we have seen, in 1861 the numbers were equal, and the bill rejected by the speaker's casting vote. In 1862 there was a majority of one against it; in 1863, the majority of the opposing party rose to ten.

We have already mentioned that since the elimination of parliamentary reform from the place it had occupied in the queen's speeches, law reform was the only organic change which the government was prepared to propose. The measures that were brought forward in fulfilment of the pledge thus given were, a bill for the amendment of the bankruptcy laws, and another for the registration of titles to real estates. We have already seen what the author of the former bill, Lord

Westbury, thought of the first of these measures after it had undergone due parliamentary manipulation, and the other was not a whit more fortunate. Undeterred, however, by the treatment these measures had received, he determined to introduce another of still greater importance, requiring much more labour to prepare and to conduct it through the house, and likely to encounter a far greater amount of hostile criticism and amendment. The measure to which we refer was one for the consolidation of the statute law as contained in forty-four thick folio volumes of acts of parliament, many of which were obscure, obsolete, or contradictory. The work of examining, compressing, and digesting this prodigious mass of statutes had been already commenced, and the chancellor proposed that steps should now be taken to carry it forward more rapidly and effectually. He also proposed to attempt the consolidation of the common law, as contained in a vast number of recorded judicial decisions, commencing at the end of the reign of Edward II., and carried down to our own time. Of course such an immense mass of long and often conflicting judgments and opinions, contained in eleven or twelve hundred volumes of reports, the number of which was every day increasing, required an immense amount of attentive consideration. Lord Westbury proposed to appoint competent persons to examine, compare, revise, and expurgate these reports, and to remove from them all decisions that were obsolete or contradictory. For this purpose he suggested that they should be divided into three classes; the first extending to the revolution of 1688 or the commencement of the reign of Queen Anne; the next to the end of the reign of George III.; and the last to be carried down to the period at which his bill was introduced. The measure was a vigorous and honest attempt to effect a reform of great necessity and importance; but it was one that was sure to encounter a strong opposition from the lawyers, who, though comparatively few in number in the upper house, formed a very considerable proportion of the lower. And this

opposition was not likely to be balanced by any enthusiasm for a measure which, however useful, was not calculated to call forth much public sympathy or much zealous support.

A bill designed to put our volunteer force on a more satisfactory and better-defined footing was a due recognition of the efforts that had been made to raise and keep up that body and of the success that had attended them. The first volunteer rifle-corps was formed at Cheltenham in 1852, with the sanction of the Queen, conveyed in a letter from Sir G. Grey to Earl Fitzhardinge just before the Russell administration retired, in 1852. But the movement did not obtain much extension till the breaking-out of the war between France and Sardinia on the one hand, and Austria on the other, in May, 1859. Two days after the Emperor Napoleon quitted Paris to put himself at the head of the French army, a notice was issued from the War Office sanctioning the formation of volunteer rifle and artillery corps under the provisions of the act Geo. III. chap. 54. From this time the movement spread rapidly, and volunteer corps were formed in almost all of the most considerable towns of the kingdom. As the existence of these bodies enabled the government to maintain a smaller force than they would otherwise have deemed necessary, they encouraged it by all the means in their power. It was to effect this object, and to silence some murmurs that had proceeded from the volunteers, that the government introduced the measure to which we have referred. It led to a farther extension of the volunteer system, and stimulated those who belonged to the volunteer corps to improve themselves in their drill and to practise shooting, so as to become nearly equal, and in some respects even superior to the rifle corps of the regular army, over whom they had the advantage of more cultivated intelligence.

We have already intimated that the legislative work of this session was exceedingly small. A great part of it was spent in discussions on the distress that prevailed in the manufac-

turing districts; and Mr. Gladstone succeeded in carrying a measure, the general scope of which may be gathered from its somewhat complicated title of 'The Union Relief Acts Continuance Bill;' allowing the application of money raised on the security of the rates to the purpose of paying wages to distressed operatives employed in the construction of roads and other public works. This was done at the earnest request of the workmen themselves, who petitioned the government to relieve them by giving them work rather than by supporting them in idleness. The Prison-Ministers bill secured to Roman Catholic prisoners the attendance and ministrations of priests of the communion to which they belonged. Another measure, of which Lord Westbury was the author, and which redounds greatly to the honour of his disinterestedness, enacted that the advowsons of no fewer than three hundred and twenty benefices in the patronage of the lord chancellor should be sold, and the proceeds devoted to the augmentation of the income of their incumbents. The government failed in an attempt to obtain a grant of money for the purchase of the buildings which had been erected for the reception of the articles sent to the International Exhibition of 1862. During the session the ministry lost, in Sir G. Cornewall Lewis, one of its most diligent and useful members; a man remarkable for a well-balanced mind and for the solidity of his attainments. Up to the time of his death he filled the office of minister-of-war with great efficiency. During a visit he made to his constituents he was seized with a sudden attack of illness, that speedily proved fatal.

The speech delivered at the prorogation of parliament was marked by the ominous omission of the clause in which the sovereign was generally made to announce to the legislature that her relations with foreign states were friendly and satisfactory. The cause of the omission of this usual assurance was the danger of war that existed in many quarters. There was a possibility of our being drawn into taking part in the struggle

going on in America; there was intelligence that hostilities with Japan had either been already begun, or were hourly expected to commence; our diplomatic relations with Brazil were interrupted; a war was being carried on in New Zealand against the Maories; and finally, a serious dispute had arisen between France and Austria respecting Poland, in which, if it should be carried farther, the strong public feeling that existed in this country in favour of that oppressed nationality would hardly allow us to remain neutral. At a later period complications arose between Denmark and Germany, which seemed at one time likely to involve this country.

On the eve of Christmas-day, one whose name was familiar as a household word, whose books were in every library, and had been read with interest by everybody, suddenly disappeared from this earthly scene. On the morning of the 24th of December, William Makepeace Thackeray was found calmly sleeping his last sleep. His was a mind that saw the ugly side of human nature, and depicted it with vividness and exaggeration, cynically placing it in the clearest light, yet with no cynical intent, for his nature overflowed with benevolence and kindly humour; and if he painted vice in its darkest colours, it was only to make men hate it more intensely. His portraits were indeed drawn in somewhat sombre colours, but there was withal in them a trueness to life that had made him not a few enemies among those who fancied that they saw their own likeness in his delineations of character. But their enmity did not survive his death; and the unexpected intelligence of that event, coming as it did a few days after the report of a speech he had delivered at the Charterhouse full of rich humour and right feeling, was received with universal regret at a season which his works had contributed in no small degree to cheer and enliven. By the desire of his family his funeral was strictly private; but there stood by the open grave to which the body of the great humourist was committed his friend and literary rival, Charles Dickens, as well as most of the literary celebrities of the day.

Three years before, Thackery and Dickens officiated as the chief mourners at the interment of Douglas Jerrold; now one of them followed the other to his last resting-place, into which he also was shortly to descend.

It was very fortunate, considering the circumstances in which the inhabitants of the manufacturing districts as well as of other parts of the kingdom were placed by the civil war still raging in America, that the harvest of this year was abundant almost beyond precedent. From all quarters most cheering accounts had been received. The grain-crops were excellent both in quality and quantity, and the result was a considerable diminution in the prices of almost all the necessaries of life, as well as a healthy impulse to the industry and commerce of the country, which was thus assisted to rise out of the distress under which many of her districts had been suffering so long and so severely.

The year 1864 opened with very general apprehensions that the dispute which had arisen between Denmark on the one hand, and Prussia and Austria on the other, with regard to the Duchy of Schleswig-Holstein would end in a war, into which this country might not improbably be drawn. Earl Russell, as foreign secretary, was doing his best, by appealing to the faith of treaties, to induce the two great powers who were claiming Schleswig-Holstein in the name of Germany, to moderate their proceedings; but to very little purpose, although in his communications with them he employed language which was almost menacing. Public opinion, however, expressed itself very decidedly against interference in a cause which England had no direct interest in maintaining, and she was consequently placed in the position of a warmly-interested looker-on, while the Danes were heroically contending against the enormously superior forces which the two great German powers brought into the field. But the sympathy of this country was shown by large private contributions for the relief and assistance of the Danish soldiers wounded in the unequal conflict.

Much of the time of parliament was occupied by debates on the question involved in this war, to the exclusion of many important subjects which urgently demanded its attention. In the House of Lords the Earl of Derby strongly condemned the policy of the foreign secretary, which he characterised by two expressive words, long remembered and frequently repeated, 'meddle and muddle.' However, the English generally knew little and cared less about the merits of the question at issue, but their sympathies were warmly excited by the spectacle of a little power like Denmark opposed to the armies of two great powers such as Prussia and Austria; and they were disposed to conclude, without much examination, that the small power must needs be right, and the two great powers wrong, as it was quite certain, that whether right or wrong they could take whatever they chose to demand. The debates on the question were much more remarkable for the warmth and vehemence with which they were conducted, than for the light they threw on the merits of the question at issue.

They did not, however, prevent parliament from discussing some measures of considerable importance. Foremost among these, though attracting much less attention in this country than it deserved, was the Government-Annuities bill, introduced by Mr. Gladstone, and designed to provide, under the management and security of the government, a great general life and health insurance institution founded on sound principles, and which, it was hoped, would ultimately supplant the numberless sick and burial clubs and friendly societies instituted for the same object, many of which were based on thoroughly unsound principles, and either then bankrupt, or sure at some future and not very distant time, to be placed in the position of being unable to meet the engagements into which they had entered with their members, and consequently endeavouring to stave off the inevitable day by inducing young members to become contributors. Great opposition was offered to the plan by the societies which it was designed to supersede.

The budget of the year 1864 obtained the same attendance and attention that the financial statements of Mr. Gladstone had hitherto commanded. It was true that it did not, and under the circumstances in which the country was placed, could not propose to carry out the great and brilliant financial operations by which some of his previous budgets had been distinguished. However, nothing could be more satisfactory than the statement he was able to make. Our gross exports and imports amounted to 444,000,000*l.*, being about three times as much as they had been in the year 1842, the year in which the great financial reforms so boldly originated by Sir Robert Peel, and so ably carried on by Mr. Gladstone, were commenced. The revenue was estimated at 69,460,000*l.*, and the expenditure at 66,890,000*l.*, placing at the disposal of the chancellor a surplus of 2,570,000*l.* With this surplus he proposed to take off from the income tax a penny in the pound, to reduce the fire-insurance duty from three shillings to one shilling and sixpence so far as stock-in-trade was concerned, to grant a relief from taxation to the extent of 3,000,000*l.*; but he successfully resisted an agitation which was carried on for the repeal of the tax on malt and was supported in that resistance by 347 votes to 99. He subsequently consented to a remission of the duty on malt used for the consumption of cattle.

An agitation for the entire abolition of capital punishment had been carried on for some time, and had now acquired so much strength that the government was induced to issue a royal commission to inquire into the nature and operation of the laws by which the punishment of death was appointed to be inflicted, as well as into the manner of its infliction, and to report whether it was desirable that any alteration should be made in these respects. The commission was composed of men who had paid attention to the subject, and who represented the different opinions which were entertained with regard to it. It was almost unanimously admitted by the commissioners that some change was required in the interest of the country and of

justice, because in the present state of the law, juries, in spite of their oaths, frequently acquitted persons accused of murder not because proofs of their guilt were wanting, but because there were extenuating circumstances which in their opinion rendered the punishment of death too severe. In dealing with the question of the manner of inflicting capital punishments in the cases in which it was thought proper that they should still be retained the commission recommended that the penalty of death should be inflicted within the walls of the prison in the presence of a small number of spectators, in order to avoid those demoralising and disgusting scenes which often attended and disgraced public executions. These recommendations were subsequently adopted.

The subject of education was first brought under the attention of parliament during this session by the presentation of a report by the public-school commissioners, in which they stated that after a careful examination of the following institutions—Eton, Winchester, Westminster, St. Paul's, Merchant Taylors, Shrewsbury, Harrow, and Rugby—they had come to the conclusion that while the course of study pursued in these schools was sound and valuable in its main element, it was wanting in breadth and flexibility, defects which in many cases destroyed and in all impaired its value as an education of the mind. They reported that all these schools, though in different degrees, were too indulgent to idleness, or at least struggled ineffectually against it, and that consequently they sent out a large proportion of men of idle habits and empty uncultivated minds. On the other hand, the commission spoke in terms of high praise of the discipline and moral training afforded in these establishments. Much that was contained in these reports was already known, but they had the effect of drawing more general attention to the condition of these institutions, and of many others that were established on similar principles; and thus caused efforts to be made for their improvement, and especially for the cure of those removable evils, the existence of which this inquiry had revealed.

One very important defect in the education given in these great seats of learning was placed in a clear light by Mr. Cobden, in a speech which he delivered to his constituents at Rochdale towards the close of this year. Speaking of the undergraduates of Oxford and Cambridge, who were in fact the élite of the public schools, he said: 'I will take any undergraduate now at Oxford or Cambridge, and I will bring him to a map of the United States and ask him to put his finger on Chicago, and I will undertake to say he will not go within a thousand miles of it. Yet Chicago is a place of 150,000 inhabitants, from which one or two millions of people in our own country are annually fed. These young gentlemen know all about the geography of ancient Greece and Egypt. Now I know I shall be pelted with Greek and Latin quotations for what I am going to say. When I was at Athens, I walked out one summer morning to seek the famous river, the Ilissus, and after walking some hundred yards or so up what appeared to be the bed of the mountain torrent, I came upon a number of Athenian laundresses, and I found that they had dammed up this famous classical river, and were using every drop of its water for their lavatory purposes. Why then should not these young gentlemen, who know all about the geography of the Ilissus, know also something about the geography of the Mississippi?'

But while the question of the education of the upper and middle classes of English society was being carefully investigated, that of the education of the working classes was not neglected. It was placed at this moment under the vigorous administration of Mr. Lowe, who in the discharge of his duty as minister of education, was endeavouring to put the various religious communions of the country on a footing of perfect equality so far as related to the distribution of the grants made under the authority of the educational department of the privy-council. In doing so, he incurred much obloquy and hostility from the conservative party, and a great effort was

made to remove him from the position he occupied. Lord Robert Cecil accused him of tampering with the reports of the inspectors, and suppressing statements opposed to his own views, and moved, 'That in the opinion of this house the mutilation of the reports of her Majesty's inspectors of schools, and the exclusion from them of statements and opinions adverse to the educational views entertained by the committee of council, while matters favourable to them are admitted, are violations of the understanding under which the appointment of inspectors was originally sanctioned by parliament, and tend entirely to destroy the value of their reports.' This resolution, notwithstanding a very able defence made by Mr. Lowe, was carried by 101 to 93—numbers which were supposed to show that Lord Palmerston had not done all he might have done to save his colleague from this censure. Mr. Lowe at once resigned his office of vice-president of the educational department, and procured the appointment of a committee, which fully exonerated him from all blame in the matter. Thus one of the ablest men in the government was compelled to retire from it with a mind somewhat irritated against those of his colleagues who appeared to have neglected to give him on this occasion the support he considered he had a right to expect from them, and whom in the sequel he made to feel the consequences of this conduct.

On Wednesday the 13th of April a remarkable debate took place on the second reading of Mr. Locke King's county franchise bill. Lord Palmerston strongly opposed the measure, delivering a speech against organic changes, which would have proceeded with a better grace from the back benches of the opposition than from the leader of the liberal party. It was evident, however, that the premier did not carry with him the sympathies and support of his party to the views which he thus expressed; for when the house came to a division on the question of the second reading, the numbers were:

For the second reading	227
Against	254
Majority against the second reading	27

About a month later, Mr. Baines' bill for lowering the franchise in the boroughs, which, like the kindred reform proposed by Mr. Locke King, had frequently been before the house, was again brought under discussion. Mr. Gladstone seized this opportunity of showing that he did not share the opinions that the prime minister had expressed on this question. Lord Palmerston had argued against that proposal on the ground that the people were not anxious for organic reforms, and were not agitating for innovations. Mr. Gladstone, with evident reference to this argument, said: 'We are told that the working classes do not agitate; but is it desirable that we should wait till they do agitate? In my opinion, agitation by the working classes upon any political subject whatever is a thing not to be waited for, not to be made a condition previous to any parliamentary movement, but, on the contrary, to be deprecated, and, if possible, prevented, by wise and provident measures. An agitation by the working classes is not like an agitation by the classes above them, having leisure. The agitation of the classes having leisure is easily conducted. Every hour of their time has not a money value; their wives and children are not dependent on the application of those hours to labour. But when a working man finds himself in such a condition that he must abandon that daily labour on which he is strictly dependent for his daily bread, it is only because then, in railway language, the danger-signal is turned on, and because he feels a strong necessity for action, and a distrust in the rulers who have driven him to that necessity. The present state of things, I rejoice to say, does not indicate that distrust; but if we admit that, we must not allege the absence of agitation on the part of the working classes as a reason why the parliament of England and the public mind of England

should be indisposed to entertain the discussion of this question.'

Notwithstanding this support, Mr. Baines' motion was defeated by a majority of 272 against 216. This was only what Mr. Gladstone had anticipated. His object was to place distinctly on record his decided opinion in favour of those organic changes which the head of the government had so strongly deprecated. From this day he was looked up to by the earnest liberals as their future champion, and as the framer of the next reform bill. They anticipated that the time was at hand when that question would be brought forward under more favourable auspices, and with a widely different result.

Two measures very advantageous to the working classes were adopted in the course of this session. The first proposed by Lord Derby, enacted that in every railway leading into the metropolis provision should be made for the accommodation of the working classes by cheap trains. This proposal was made mainly on the ground that the railways to which it applied had destroyed a large number of the habitations of the labouring classes, compelling them to reside at greater distances than before from the places at which they worked. Lord Derby contended that it was only just that these railways should compensate those classes by affording them increased facilities for going to and returning from their work. The measure was accepted by the government, and was the first step in a system which has proved a great boon to those for whose benefit it was adopted, and a source of no small profit to the railway companies themselves, who have since found it to their interest greatly to extend the principle on which this important enactment was based. The other boon granted to the working classes was an act for applying to several other trades the regulations which already applied to women and children working in factories.

A vote of censure on the government for its conduct in reference to Denmark was carried in the House of Lords by a

majority of nine; but a similar motion proposed by Mr. Disraeli in the lower house was rejected by a majority of eighteen. Thus a liberal ministry, with a conservative chief and a large share of conservatism entering into its composition, maintained its ground against the conservative opposition to the end of the session.

It is now time that we should notice one of the most remarkable agitations carried on in this or any other country. For some years societies had existed composed of persons pledged to abstain from the use of all intoxicating liquors, and who endeavoured to persuade others that the use of these liquors, so far from being conducive to health, as had hitherto been generally supposed, were injurious to it. These opinions spread very rapidly in England, and especially in the manufacturing districts, though they were chiefly confined to the working classes. In the United States of America they obtained still greater currency; so much so, that Neal Dow, the mayor of Portland, U.S., had succeeded in carrying a law for the state of Maine, of which that town was the capital, and which is known by the title of the 'Maine liquor law.' This law was passed in 1851. In 1852 Nathaniel Card, a member of the Society of Friends, a pledged total abstainer, but who had not hitherto taken an active part in promoting the views of the advocates of total abstinence, wrote to Mr. Neal Dow for information respecting the Maine liquor law. The reply that he received to this communication made him resolve to endeavour to establish in England an organisation to agitate in favour of a similar measure. He succeeded in inducing Mr. Alderman Harvey of Salford, Mr. James Simpson of Fox Denton, Mr. J. Brotherton, M.P. for Salford, and Mr. Pope, a young barrister, to embark with him in the proposed agitation, and to form with some others a provisional committee. In February of the following year they opened offices in Manchester, and came before the public, with Mr. Walter C. Trevelyan as president, Mr. Harvey as chairman, Mr. Pope, honorary

secretary, and Mr. T. B. Barker, who has ever since been the soul of the agitation, as working secretary. The first step this committee took was to endeavour to unite those who were favourable to the movement throughout the country into a general council, of which Father Mathew, Mr. Silk Buckingham, the Earl of Allanton, and several others whose names had become widely known on account of the efforts they had made to promote the cause of temperance, became vice-presidents. On the 1st of June, 1853, the council was constituted; and in October next a great inaugural meeting was held, at which the following propositions were unanimously adopted as a basis for the agitation, and as indicating the character and scope of the movement.

'1. That it is neither right nor politic for the state to afford legal protection and sanction to any traffic or system that tends to increase crime, to waste the national resources, to corrupt the social habits, and to destroy the health and lives of the people.

'2. That the traffic in intoxicating liquors as common beverages is inimical to the true interests of individuals, and destructive to the order and welfare of society, and ought therefore to be prohibited.

'3. That the history and results of all past legislation in regard to the liquor traffic abundantly prove that it is impossible satisfactorily to limit or regulate a system so essentially mischievous in its tendencies.

'4. That no considerations of private gain or public revenue can justify the upholding of a system so utterly wrong in principle, suicidal in policy, and disastrous in results, as the traffic in intoxicating liquors.

'5. That the legislative prohibition of the liquor traffic is perfectly compatible with rational liberty, and with all the claims of justice and legitimate commerce.

'6. That the legislative suppression of the liquor traffic

would be highly conducive to the development of a progressive civilisation.

'7. That, rising above class, sectarian, or party considerations all good citizens should combine to procure an enactment prohibiting the sale of intoxicating beverages, as affording the most efficient aid in removing the appalling evils of intemperance.'

The methods adopted by this body to promulgate its principles and promote its objects were:

1. Lectures and public meetings.

2. Essays, tracts, placards, handbills, and periodical publications, including a weekly organ, the *Alliance News* (price 1d.)

3. Petitions and memorials to parliament, to government, to local authorities, and to religious bodies.

4. House-to-house canvasses, to ascertain the opinions of heads of families and other adult members.

5. Conference of electors, ministers of religion, Sunday-school teachers, the medical profession, and other important bodies.

Nothing in this agitation was more striking than the success which attended the public meetings held by the Alliance. They were usually convened in the largest buildings in the cities, towns, and villages in which they were held; they were frequently called and presided over by the mayors of the towns in which they were held; were freely open to all classes; discussion was invited, resolutions submitted embodying the principles and aims of the association: and in nearly all cases were affirmed by enthusiastic and unanimous votes.

Resolutions and memorials from public meetings were continually sent to the home office, and to various influential members of her majesty's government, urging them to bring in a comprehensive measure, dealing with the whole licensing question, and giving the ratepayers of each parish a power of veto on the local issue of licenses by a vote of two-thirds.

In the year 1855 the executive offered prizes of one hundred guineas, fifty guineas, and twenty guineas, for the three best

essays of those sent in, advocating and defending the principles and policy of the organisation. The essay that gained the first prize was written by Dr. F. R. Lees, and published in 1856. It constituted a volume of 320 pages, and an edition of 11,000 was rapidly sold off. Second and third editions followed, large issues of which were absorbed. Subsequently, to meet the still increasing applications, a condensed edition of the prize-essay argument was issued; and since then two other editions have been called for, making in all upwards of 100,000 copies. In addition to these, a sequel to the argument, containing an answer to all objections, and a history of the Maine law, written by the same author, was issued by the Alliance, and several large editions of it have been called for.

In June, 1857, a conference of 400 clergymen and other Christian ministers of all denominations was held in the town-hall, Manchester, during three days. The circular convening the conference received the written sanction of not less than 11,000 ministers of religion. Amongst the resolutions adopted by this assembly was the following declaration:

'We, the undersigned ministers of the gospel, are convinced by personal observation within our own sphere, and authentic testimony from beyond it, that the traffic in intoxicating liquors as drink for man is the immediate cause of most of the crime and pauperism, and much of the disease and insanity that afflict the land; that everywhere, and in proportion to its prevalence, it deteriorates the moral character of the people, and is the chief outward obstruction to the progress of the gospel; that these are not its accidental attendants, but its natural fruits; that the benefit, if any, is very small in comparison with the bane; that all schemes of regulation and restriction, however good so far as they go, fall short of the nation's need and the nation's duty; and that, therefore, on the obvious principle of destroying the evil which cannot be controlled, the wisest course for those who fear God and regard man is to encourage legitimate efforts for the entire suppression of the trade,

by the power of the national will, and through the force of a legislative enactment.' This declaration received the adhesion in writing of upwards of 3,000 ministers of religion.

During the years 1858 and 1859 a system of house-to-house canvass was adopted in numerous localities in England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales; the result of which was as follows:—

Favourable to the permissive prohibitory liquor law ...	147,821
Neutral	32,140
Opposed	18,914

This expression of opinion was in every case recorded in writing on printed papers explanatory of the principle and object of the proposed law; the canvass was conducted by voluntary agency; and all replies to the queries were carefully scrutinised by local committees of clergymen, Sunday-school teachers, and other well-known and respectable persons having the confidence of the community; the results being immediately published, and all inquiries frankly responded to.

At the annual council-meeting of the Alliance in October 1857 a draft of suggestions for a permissive prohibitory liquor law was adopted, and put into extensive circulation; at the council-meeting in 1863 it was confirmed; and in the session that followed, a bill founded on it was submitted to the House of Commons.

The preamble of the bill set forth, that 'Whereas the sale of intoxicating liquors is a fruitful source of crime, immorality, pauperism, disease, insanity, and premature death, whereby not only the individuals who give way to drinking habits are plunged into misery, but grievous wrong is done to the persons and property of her majesty's subjects at large, and the public rates and taxes are greatly augmented; and whereas it is right and expedient to confer upon the ratepayers of cities, boroughs, parishes, and townships, the power to prohibit such common sale as aforesaid: be it therefore enacted,' &c.

The bill went on to provide that, on application of any dis-

trict, the votes of the ratepayers shall be taken as to the propriety of adopting the provisions of the act; but that a majority of at least two-thirds of the votes taken shall be necessary in order to decide that question in the affirmative. The act itself would, when once adopted in any district, prohibit within that district all traffic in intoxicating liquor for common purposes.

The first reading of the bill, though strongly opposed, was carried by a large majority, after a brief debate. The second reading, as expected, was defeated by a large majority, but forty members voted and paired off in favour of the bill. This was a much larger number than had been expected by the promoters of the measure. Petitions in favour of the bill were sent in, bearing upwards of 482,000 signatures; whilst the opposing petitions were but few, and chiefly emanated from interested parties.

In 1869, on the motion for a second reading of the bill, 94 voted and paired in its favour (an increase of 54).

The large number of persons who were engaged in the agitation, the wealth and social position of many of them, the enormous funds which had been subscribed to support the Alliance, and the influence which it exercised in the election of members to parliament, obtained for its proposals a very attentive and respectful consideration. It was felt by many who were not prepared to go the full length of the permissive bill, that something needed to be done to reduce the immense amount of pauperism and crime which was distinctly traceable to drinking habits which the public-houses engendered. Others were of opinion that the principle of local control which the permissive bill embodied was the only one calculated to contend with the gigantic evils which the liquor traffic was producing, and were willing that the bill should be read a second time in the hope that amendments would be introduced in committee which would modify those features in it which they regarded as affording a too-violent remedy for an evil so justly complained of, and so generally admitted. But the only distinct counter-

plan suggested was that of Mr. Bright, who, while approving the main principle of the bill, stated what he thought would be a wiser way of dealing with the great social sore which it sought to heal.

'You can make no change,' he said, 'from where you are, unless you intrust to the municipal council, or some committee of the municipal council in the various boroughs, the power of determining the number of licenses for the sale of wine, spirits, or beer.'

'If you were to intrust it to the council instead of the full vote of rate-payers, as proposed by the bill, I think you would avoid everything like a sudden and violent interference with property; you would also avoid the capricious action which might take place if two-thirds of the rate-payers were to judge this question; and you would give to the whole body of the rate-payers, through their representatives in the municipal councils, the determination of a question which every day is becoming more important with the great masses of the people of this country. I know no proposal which could be made from the point where we now stand to the point of the bill of my honourable friend, except the one I have suggested. Generally the municipal councils in this country perform their duties with admirable success, and there has been no bill passed in this country that has been more successful than the one which they have passed to reform the corporations. If they had this farther power, I think it would add to their influence and dignity; and in all probability the opinions of the people would be fairly carried out in reference to this question. But there is another question. Honourable gentlemen opposite may say, that this could not be done in the rural districts, where there are no corporations, and therefore my suggestion could not apply. But I think if it were attempted in the towns, and it was found more advantageous and successful than the present system, something could be found before long to extend the new system to the agricultural districts as well;

and if that should be found impracticable, it is no reason for debarring the towns from the benefit.

'I should not have brought such a question as this before the House; and I am not so sanguine of the result of these changes as what I may call the temperance party in the House. I have not that faith in any act of the legislature. I believe in the effect of the instruction of the people, and of the improvement that is gradually taking place among them. I think that drunkenness is not on the increase, but rather is declining; and I hope, whether the law be altered or not, we shall find our working classes becoming more and more sober than in past times. But as I have on many occasions been before the public favouring the efforts of the advocates of temperance, I have felt bound to state the reasons why I cannot give my vote in favour of this bill, and to suggest what the House might do by way of giving to the people, through their municipal councils, control over this question. By doing this, you might promote temperance among the people, and at the same time avoid a great and manifest injustice to thousands of persons now engaged in the trade, whose property would be rendered uncertain, if not altogether destroyed, if the bill of the honourable gentlemen should receive the sanction of the house.'

The leaders of the Alliance, by no means disheartened by a defeat which they had fully foreseen, and which was less decided than they had expected it to be, carried forward their agitation with renewed vigour. Taking advantage of the annual meetings of the Social Science Congress, they there obtained a full discussion of the subject in all its bearings. A committee of the Convocation of the province of Canterbury, to which the question was submitted, made a report entirely in accordance with their views and opinions. They waited on candidates at contested elections, and gave their support, without reference to political sentiment, to those who promised to vote for the permissive bill, and in many instances succeeded

in turning the elections in their favour. They raised a guarantee fund, first of 50,000*l.*, and afterwards of nearly 100,000*l.* In a word, they diffused information, and prosecuted their agitation with a degree of vigour and success which has been only rivalled by the great anti-corn-law agitation, and with legislative and other results which, though falling far short of their aims, have exercised a great and beneficial effect on the habits of the people of this country, and have counteracted in no small degree the individual, domestic, social, and national evils that drunkenness produces.

During the night of Friday, the 11th of March, the town of Sheffield was visited by a terrific calamity. An enormous reservoir had recently been constructed at Bradfield, about eight miles from the town, to supply it with water. It was formed by the construction of an embankment across the valleys of Stunnington and Linley, hemming in a body of water which covered seventy acres, and varied from forty to eighty or a hundred feet in depth. The engineer by whom the dyke was constructed, as well as those employed under him, enjoyed a high reputation for skill and knowledge of their profession, and no suspicion seems to have arisen that it was too weak to sustain the enormous weight of water that pressed on it. The engineer, who had the care of the works, left it apparently in good condition at six o'clock on the evening on which the accident happened. A violent gale was driving large waves against it; but it showed no signs of giving way. Scarcely, however, had he quitted the works when a farm-labourer, crossing the dyke, observed a crack in it, which he mentioned to some navvies who were engaged in making repairs. They at once pursued, overtook, and brought back the engineer, who ordered the weir by which the water overflowed to be blown up with gunpowder to allow it to escape more rapidly. Unfortunately this part of the work was so solid as to defy all efforts to widen it. The engineer and his men then returned to the crack, which they found greatly enlarged, and

which they passed only just in time to escape being carried away. Down went the embankment, and off went two million tons of water in mad career through the valley, sweeping away bridges, factories, warehouses, workshops, houses, cottages with all their inhabitants, like so many children's toys. They were first violently tossed to the top of the mighty flood, and then sank beneath it. Though it rushed on with great rapidity, yet so circuitous was the channel that it was past midnight when it reached Sheffield. Shortly before twelve o'clock it burst upon the village of Malin Bridge, a little above Sheffield. A whole row of cottages was dashed down in a moment, and the inhabitants of the adjacent houses could distinguish the faces and the voices of their neighbours as they were whirled away past them. A man named Watson was observed holding his wife clasped to his bosom, while she held her infant in her embrace. In vain did some of those who were near make frantic efforts to lay hold of them and save them. They were driven on a wall, which gave way at the moment they approached it, and down they went amidst a mass of timbers that threatened every moment to dash them to atoms. They were then borne against another wall with so violent a shock as to compel the poor fellow to quit his hold of his wife and child. Left to himself, he managed to keep his head above water, and was at length carried to a window, through which he was dragged by the occupant of the house to whom it belonged. After the torrent had swept past, the corpses of his wife and of five sisters, all adults, were taken to the house of his widowed mother, living on the side of the hill below which his house had stood. The poor old woman laid them out and watched beside them. In another house situated close by the same place, nine out of ten of the inmates were killed, and the tenth saved himself by breaking through the plaster and slates and clambering on to the roof. There were many wonderful escapes, many acts of heroic devotedness, much presence of mind exhibited in the midst of this sudden calamity; but the

loss of life was appalling. Up to Tuesday evening 187 bodies had been found, of which 99 were laid side by side in ghastly rows at the workhouse, on the Saturday following, still awaiting identification.

The English people have been generally, and perhaps not unjustly, regarded as a cold, calculating, phlegmatic, undemonstrative race. It has been said too, that, as a consequence of this temperament, their sympathies with the oppressed nationalities of the Continent, though unquestionably deep and sincere, have seldom been strongly manifested. But the visit of Garibaldi seemed to give the lie to the estimate that was usually formed of them, and to astonish even the most excitable of their continental neighbours. Never probably was a warmer reception given in England or any other country to the hero of a hundred fights than was awarded the liberator of Italy. From his first landing at Southampton, or rather before his landing, he was assailed by the well-meant but often troublesome and intrusive homage of his admirers. But the enthusiasm swelled to the highest pitch, when, yielding to an almost resistless compulsion, he so far did violence to his own modest nature as to make a public entry into London. For four mortal hours did the carriage of the Duke of Sutherland struggle on from Waterloo station to Stafford House, stemming the human sea that overflowed every street through which he had to pass, amidst crowds composed of all classes, from the highest to the lowest, all vying with each other in their tokens of respect and admiration for his character. He remained in London as the guest of the Duke of Sutherland, receiving the homage of the first nobility of the land, basking in the smiles of royalty, and followed wherever he went by shouts and acclamations. Pressing entreaties came from almost all the principal towns in England that he would honour each of them with a visit. He was perplexed by these invitations. He could not accept all, and could not select any without giving offence to the rest. The fatigue of receiving and answering addresses,

and acknowledging the demonstrations that met him at every turn, soon began to tell on a constitution, enfeebled by many hardships as well as by a wound he had recently received. He found it necessary to make his escape as speedily as possible from an idolatry which was likely to prove seriously injurious to its object. Therefore, after having remained about three weeks in England, the greater part of which time was passed in comparative seclusion, he was conveyed to his home in the island of Caprera in the yacht of the Duke of Sutherland, who accompanied him on his voyage.

Another event which occurred in this year stirred the public mind atmost as deeply, though in a very different way. The body of a gentleman still breathing, but too frightfully wounded to be able to give any account of the way in which he came there, was found in the middle of the North London Railway, near the Milford-Arms Tavern, about ten o'clock on the night of Saturday, July the 9th. The first and natural supposition was that he had either jumped or fallen from a train. But facts soon came to light which negatived this supposition. A carriage which had recently come from Fenchurch Street was saturated with blood, and contained a crushed hat, a walking-stick, and a small leathern bag. These discoveries left no doubt that the dying man had been murdered in this carriage, and then thrown from it by his murderer. It was found that his name was Briggs; that his hat and a valuable watch and gold chain, as well as an eye-glass, all of which he had with him at his departure from home, were missing; and there could be no doubt that the crime had been committed for the sake of these articles. But who was the murderer? This was the question which was asked with great interest throughout the kingdom. Every man felt that he might be the victim of a similar attack; and for a long time after the commission of the crime, if two men found themselves alone in a railway carriage, they looked at each other with suspicion, and each held himself in readiness to maintain a life-and-death struggle

with his peaceful and well-intentioned companion. The clue to the detection of the person who had committed this crime was very slight at first, but was carefully followed by the police, who were stimulated in their inquiries by the offer of large rewards. It was ascertained that a man who seemed to be a foreigner had exchanged Mr. Briggs's chain for another at the shop of Mr. Death, jeweller, in Cheapside. A number of minute circumstances combined to fix suspicion of the crime on a young German named Franz Müller, who had hitherto borne a good character for steadiness, industry, and mildness of disposition, and who for some weeks past had been talking of emigrating to America. A cabman named Matthews brought a paper ring-box with Mr. Death's name printed on it, which Müller had given to one of his children as a plaything; and Mr. Death stated, that having given in exchange for Mr. Briggs's chain one of less value, he had added a ring to make up the difference. There was strong reason for believing that the hat found in the blood-stained compartment had belonged to Müller. These circumstances afforded a moral certainty of his guilt; but it was doubtful whether they were sufficient to procure a legal conviction, and even if they were, how could he now be taken? He was already far on his way to America, and there could be no doubt that as soon as he arrived there he would hurry off to some remote part of that great continent, where it would be impossible to discover him. These difficulties, however, did not discourage the police who were on Müller's track. The City of Manchester, a swift steamer, was despatched in pursuit of him, having on board two experienced officers, carrying out a warrant for his apprehension and all necessary appliances for obtaining his arrest under the extradition treaty between this country and the United States. The steamer arrived some time before the Victoria which carried out Müller, and when he attempted to land, he was at once apprehended with Mr. Briggs's hat in his possession. After a fair, full, and patient investigation, he was convicted

and executed, confessing, at the last moment, that he had perpetrated the crime for which he suffered.

The year ended under decidedly happier auspices, and with better prospects than those under which it had commenced. The distress in the manufacturing districts had so sensibly abated that the relief committees were able greatly to diminish the number of their meetings, and the amount of aid distributed to the distressed operatives.

The session of the year 1865, commenced on Tuesday, the 7th of February. The war-clouds that had overhung Europe during a great part of the last year were dissipated, but hostilities on a small scale were still carried on by this country against Japan and the Maories of New Zealand. The queen was once more absent, and there was consequently again an absence of that ceremonial which attends the opening of parliament by the sovereign in person. A small party of ladies in the body of the House of Lords and in the galleries were almost the only persons present, except the peers who were appointed to act as commissioners, and to present the royal message. It contained nothing that was not already notorious; spoke in confident terms of the continuance of peace, announced a persistent neutrality as the settled policy of our government, in reference to the civil war in the United States, and expressed an approval of a proposed combination of our North American colonies in a single confederacy. The home measures to which it referred were of an unimportant character; and on the question of parliamentary reform and of other organic changes it was entirely silent. It was discussed, as such a speech might be expected to be discussed, by a parliament whose views it echoed with tolerable fidelity. All men, even the most strenuous reformers, saw that it would be useless to bring forward the improvements they desired, in a parliament which had reached its last session. The great age that Lord Palmerston had attained, rendered it certain that he could not continue much longer at the head of the government; and therefore the eyes

of all men were turned towards the parliament that would have to be elected in the course of this year, and which would probably commence its sittings under the auspices of a new premier, if not of a new administration.

The royal message was described by Lord Derby as being the sort of speech likely to be addressed by an aged minister to a moribund parliament, whose dissolution was certain; so that the best thing its advisers could do was to find it some gentle occupation, and to take care that its dying moments should not be disturbed by any unnecessary excitement. Still, the notices of bills and motions given in the lower house on the first days after its meeting, were sufficiently numerous to find the house ample employment during the whole of a long session; so that if kept without excitement, it need not be kept without work. It was well understood, however, that many of these notices were given rather in the hope of propitiating the constituencies than in the expectation of their being seriously discussed by the house.

But there were some practical and useful measures, which those who brought them forward, fully intended to carry through. Among these may be mentioned the Union Chargeability bill, read a second time on the 22nd of April, which established a better and more economical system of management in the different unions of the kingdom, made a more equal repartition of rates, and, which was much more important, relieved the poor from grievous hardships, which up to this time the law of settlement had inflicted on them. It sometimes happened in parishes which belonged to a single proprietor, or to a small number of proprietors, that in order to prevent the men who laboured on their property from gaining a settlement in it, and acquiring a right to be supported from the rates, they would not allow a single cottage to be erected within the parish; so that the poor drudges who tilled the ground were obliged to walk a distance of four or five miles to and from the place in which they laboured. It is true that this was an extreme case,

which did not often occur, but there were many parishes in which there was an approach to this state of things; and of course it was not only attended with serious hardship to the peasants who were obliged to undergo this great and needless fatigue, but was also shamefully unfair to the parishes which had not been benefited by their labour, but which were compelled to support them in illness and old age. The bill of Mr. Villiers applied a very simple remedy to this state of things. Instead of making each separate parish support its own paupers, by rates that were equal throughout the parish, it required each separate union of parishes to support its own paupers by rates equal throughout the union; thus making the area of relief coincident with the area of management, and putting an end to a great deal of litigation between different parishes. It is true that the measure did not go far enough, and did not wholly arrest the evil with which it dealt. It still left untouched differences of rates between contiguous unions. This might, indeed, be remedied to some extent by their enlargement, which for many other reasons was desirable. However, the measure passed its second reading by a majority of 203 against 131. An amendment, brought forward by Mr. Bentinck, to facilitate, in certain cases, the alteration of the limits of existing unions, was opposed by Mr. Villiers, on the part of the government, and rejected by the house. The bill eventually passed, and was the principal work of the session.

On the evening of Tuesday, the 28th of March, Mr. Dillwyn moved a resolution, affirming that the state of the Irish church was unsatisfactory, and called for the early attention of her majesty's government. The motion was opposed by Sir G. Grey, who stated that the government was not prepared to bring forward a measure calculated to produce the result that Mr. Dillwyn desired—the entire abolition of the Irish establishment. After Mr. Hardy had spoken at some length, and with great animation against the motion, Mr. Gladstone rose and entered into a full examination of the question of the Irish church. He

frankly admitted that its state was unsatisfactory, but he added that having regard to the difficulties which stood in the way of the removal of the anomalies it presented, and which he could not help recognising, he was not prepared to give his assent to the proposition 'that this question calls for the early attention of the government.' This declaration, to which subsequent events gave a peculiar significance, intimated that Mr. Gladstone, who had always been a firm and intelligent supporter of the Irish as well as the English church, believed that the days of the former were numbered; that the government would at some future period be compelled to face the difficult question of its disestablishment; and that the introduction of a measure for that purpose was only a question of time. It caused those who held views similar to those he had enunciated to regard him as the future leader of their party whenever the problem should be ripe for solution. It was generally felt on all sides that as soon as the retirement of Lord Palmerston from office occurred—and his great age showed that that day could not be very far distant—the consideration of this Irish grievance would occupy a foremost place in the attention of the country and of the legislature. For the present, however, the subject remained in abeyance.

The budget of this year presented features which were all the more gratifying because they were exhibited in spite of the distress which, though rapidly diminishing, still existed in the manufacturing districts. The national expenditure for the financial year was estimated at 66,139,000*l.*; while the revenue was expected to amount to 70,170,000*l.*; so that there would probably be a surplus of no less than 4,031,000*l.* Of course with so large a balance, there was room for a considerable remission of taxation. Passing by some minor changes which it was proposed to make, we come to those which were most important. The duty on tea was to be reduced to sixpence in the pound; the income-tax to be lowered from sixpence to fourpence in the pound; the insurance duty, in conformity with a

resolution which the House of Commons had passed on the 21st of March, was to be laid on all insured property at a uniform rate of one-and-ninepence, besides which the shilling duty on all policies was to be replaced by a penny stamp, and a penny receipt stamp for the payment of the money. It was expected that these reductions would afford a relief of taxation amounting to 5,420,000*l.*, of which 3,778,000*l.* would take effect during the present financial year; leaving a surplus of 253,000*l.*

Mr. Baines again brought forward his measure for the reduction of the franchise, on Wednesday, 3rd of May, to some fourteen or fifteen members. The smallness of the attendance seemed to show a want of interest in the subject, which was in some degree accounted for by the general feeling that prevailed of the inutility of introducing such a measure in a parliament which, being near its end, was not likely to pass this fragmental reform. The debate was chiefly remarkable for a speech delivered by Mr. Lowe. Though he had been a member of this ministry, and though his views on most questions agreed with those of his late colleagues, yet he differed from them and the liberal party generally on this subject, and made a very able speech in opposition to the motion. It was applauded to the echo by the conservative party, as well as by some of those who, professing to desire and pledged to support parliamentary reform, really abhorred and dreaded it as much as its avowed opponents. When the subject again came before the house on the 8th of May, there was a large gathering of members, and everything betokened a close division. This was due not so much to any extraordinary interest taken in the question, as to the knowledge that this measure was likely to be the working question of the impending election. The debate on it was therefore of a very animated character. Sir G. Grey, speaking on behalf of the government, maintained that he and his colleagues had fully redeemed their reform pledges; but declined to give any promise as to the course

which the government would take with regard to the measure in the next session. Mr. Gladstone sat by in silence. It was reported that his colleagues had extorted from him a promise not to speak on the question. But there was no truth in the statement. He had delivered his testimony on this subject during the preceding session in the most distinct manner, and it was not necessary that he should renew it now. On a division, the previous question, moved by Lord Elcho, was carried by 288 votes to 214.

During the remainder of the session the members of the house were speaking rather to their constituents than to the gentlemen, generally very few in number, who sat in the house. Early in the month of June they were putting forward their claims and opinions in addresses to the constituencies they represented, or which they hoped to represent in the next parliament. The house therefore was fitfully full and empty; members rushing down to the country by rail, and hurrying back again to the metropolis whenever any question in which their constituents took an interest was before the house. Bills were passed with even greater rapidity than is usual towards the end of a session.

One question, however, being of a personal nature, filled the house and brought on a severe party struggle. Lord Chancellor Westbury had shown himself a most effective law-reformer. He had also shown himself to be, both before and since his appointment to his high office, but more especially since, a master of biting sarcasm, which told all the more severely on those against whom it was levelled in consequence of the soft and mellifluous tones in which it was delivered; so that his blows were not inaptly compared to those of a mailed hand covered with a velvet glove. His law reforms had rendered him very unpopular with many members of his own profession, without having procured for him much favour with the public. He had been led—in one instance by good-nature, and in another by carelessness—to allow a member of his

family to make use of his patronage, in a manner calculated to damage the reputation of the high office he held and to lower his personal character. Unfortunately the charges made against him, instead of undergoing a calm and judicial investigation, were considered by the House of Commons; as such matters too frequently are, not so much with a desire to vindicate the character of public men, as with the purpose of inflicting a blow on the party and the government to which the accused person belonged. That he had been guilty of reprehensible laxity there can be no doubt. But this might to a certain extent be excused in consideration of the immense demand which the duties of his high office must make on its holder, as well as the special and most honourable labours which Lord Westbury had undertaken. But even if his conduct had been less excusable, the manner of his condemnation was such as reasonable men could hardly approve. The following resolution was moved by Mr. Ward Hunt, who afterwards filled the office of chancellor of the exchequer: 'That the evidence taken before the committee of the House of Lords in the case of Leonard Edmonds, and laid before this house, shows a laxity of practice and a want of caution on the part of the lord chancellor in sanctioning the grant of retiring pensions to public officers over whose heads grave charges are impending, and filling up the vacancies made by the retirement of such officers, whereby great encouragement has been given to corrupt practices; and that such laxity and want of caution, even in the absence of any improper motives, are in the opinion of the house highly reprehensible, and calculated to throw discredit on the administration of the high offices of state.'

Mr. Bouverie moved the 'previous question.'

The defence offered on behalf of the chancellor was received, not with the demeanour of men engaged in the calm and judicial examination of an important question very seriously affecting the character of a person in high office, but with con-

tinual interruption, loud shouts of derisive laughter, and importunate cries for a division. It was evident that a large portion of the members had come up not to judge, but to condemn or acquit. If the division had taken place a week earlier, the supporters of the ministry would have been in the majority, and Lord Westbury would have been absolved; as it was, the conservative whip had been more successful than the liberal whip; or rather, perhaps, the desire to brand Lord Westbury was stronger than the desire to clear him. It was evident the vote of censure would be carried. Lord Palmerston endeavoured, by moving an adjournment, to evade the blow aimed at the government, knowing that it would be supported by many members who were not prepared to vote with Mr. Bouverie, and that if it should be carried, the crowd which had been brought up with so much difficulty to vote on this question would be dispersed over the kingdom, and could not be again collected. The adjournment was, however, rejected by 177 voices to 163; and Lord Palmerston adroitly accepted the division as representing the feeling of the House with regard to Mr. Bouverie's motion, and thus avoided a still more signal defeat.

Lord Palmerston did not hesitate to declare, that in his opinion Lord Westbury had been unfairly dealt with. It still remained to be seen in what manner the chancellor would treat the censure of the lower house. It was announced that his statement would be made on Wednesday the 5th of July. On the evening of that day Lord Westbury took his seat as usual on the woolsack; and there was a very large concourse both of peers and of strangers to hear the expected explanations. When Lord Westbury rose he was listened to with a deep and respectful attention, which was maintained throughout his speech. He explained that he had desired to resign his high functions from the time that the charges, which had drawn down on him the censure of the House of Commons, had been first brought forward, because he thought that it was

not fit that a person on whose conduct any shadow of suspicion rested should retain the high office that he held; but that his intention had been combated by Lord Palmerston, who pointed out that if such a precedent were once given, the lord chancellor might be driven from office by any malicious or unscrupulous person who might think proper to bring a charge against him. He said that he had yielded to these considerations, and continued to hold his office till yesterday. He concluded his explanation in these words: 'I have made this statement, my lords, simply in the hope that you will believe, and that the public will believe, that I have not clung to office, much less that I have been influenced by any base or unworthy motive. With regard to the opinion which the House of Commons has pronounced, I do not presume to say a word. I am bound to accept the decision. I may, however, express the hope, that after an interval of time calmer thoughts will prevail, and a more favourable view will be taken of my conduct. I am thankful for the opportunity which my tenure of office has afforded me to propose and pass measures which have received your lordships' approbation, and which I believe —nay, I will venture from experience to predict—will be productive of great benefit to the country. With these measures I hope my name will be associated. I regret deeply that a great measure which I had at heart—I refer to the formation of a digest of the whole law—I have been unable to inaugurate; for it was not until this session that the means were afforded by parliament for that purpose. That great scheme I bequeath, already prepared, into the hands of my successor. As to the future, I can only venture to promise that it will be my anxious endeavour, in the character of a private member of your lordships' house, to promote and assist in the accomplishment of all those reforms and improvements in the administration of justice, which I feel yet remain to be carried out. I may add, in reference to the appellate jurisdiction of your lordships' house, that I am happy it is left in a state which I

think will be found satisfactory. There will not be at the close of the session a single judgment in arrear, save one in which the arguments, after occupying several days, were brought to a conclusion only the day before yesterday. In the Court of Chancery, I am thankful to be able to inform your lordships, I do not think there will remain at the end of this week one appeal unheard, or one judgment undelivered. I mention these things simply to show that it has been my earnest desire from the moment I assumed the seals of office, to devote all the energies I possessed, and all the industry of which I was capable, to the public service. My lords, it only remains for me to thank you, which I do most sincerely, for the kindness which I have uniformly received at your hands. It is very possible that by some word inadvertently used—some abruptness of manner—I may have given pain, or have exposed myself to your unfavourable opinion. If that be so, I beg you to accept the sincere expression of my regret, while I indulge the hope that the circumstance may be erased from your memory.'

It was generally felt that nothing he had done in his office, and he had effected much, better became him than his manner of leaving it; and that he had thus fully atoned for the errors into which he had fallen.

At twelve o'clock on the day following this scene, parliament was prorogued with the formalities usual on such occasions, prior to its dissolution: and now men's thoughts were at once turned towards the election of the new parliament. Much had been said for months past of 'the great conservative reaction' which was alleged to be going on, and some isolated conservative victories were pointed to in proof of its reality. The result of the general election, however, did not bear out these assertions; it produced a considerable change in the *personnel* of the House of Commons: one hundred and eighty members of the old parliament were replaced by the same number of new members. The city of London sent four

liberals; Westminster returned Mr. Mill and Lord Grosvenor, the former being at the head of the poll. At Birmingham, Mr. Bright denounced the ministry as having climbed into office under the pretence of devotion to parliamentary reform, and having afterwards violated all its pledges. He did not hesitate to declare that its chiefs had purposely betrayed the cause they undertook to defend, and that its less eminent members had tamely acquiesced in that betrayal. But while he was thus severe on the government, he did not spare the leader of the opposition. He described Mr. Disraeli as one who would have been a statesman if his powers had been directed by any ennobling principle or idea, but who unhappily preferred a temporary and worthless distinction, as the head of a decaying party fighting for impossible ends, to the priceless memories of services rendered to his country and to freedom, on which only, in our age, an enduring fame could be built up.

Of all the elections of this period, the one which excited the most intense interest was that for the university of Oxford. Mr. Gladstone was opposed by Mr. Hardy, and preparations had been made for bringing him forward immediately as candidate for South Lancashire. His defeat at Oxford was as ardently desired by the liberal party as by the most vehement of the Oxford conservatives. They felt that as long as he continued to represent the university, he would be continually subject to anti-liberal influences. But if he should become member for South Lancashire, the influences to which he would be exposed would be of a directly contrary nature. Hitherto, they said, he has been held back; now he will be urged forward. These hopes and aspirations were not disappointed. As soon as it became evident that victory at Oxford was manifestly hopeless, Mr. Gladstone hastened down to Lancashire, and lost no time in presenting himself as a candidate for the southern division of that populous and important county. It was on Tuesday, the day of the great weekly Manchester market, that he arrived, and the exchange of that city was crowded, as it usually is on

that day, by the merchants and manufacturers, not only of the cotton metropolis, but of all the great surrounding towns and districts of which Manchester is the emporium. About three o'clock it was announced that Mr. Gladstone had arrived in Manchester, as a candidate for the representation of the southern division of the county; and that he was going to deliver an address to the electors in the great room of Free-trade Hall. In a few moments that room was crowded by an eager audience, the enthusiasm of which was roused to the highest pitch when Mr. Gladstone commenced his speech by saying, 'I stand before you unmuzzled.' The shout that arose as soon as these words were uttered was the expression of a triumphant perception of the false move which had been made by those who had taken off the muzzle that had hitherto hindered Mr. Gladstone from giving unreserved utterance to his liberal sentiments, and from fully following his liberal instincts. And they had good reason for their exultation. There can be no doubt that the pride and delight which Mr. Gladstone took in representing his own university often acted as a restraint on him, and prevented him from expressing his own strong convictions as fully as he would otherwise have done, for fear of needlessly increasing the dissatisfaction with which he knew that the course he often felt himself compelled to take was regarded by many of his old supporters. It was therefore a fortunate circumstance for the nation, though a most unfortunate circumstance for the conservative party generally, that at this critical period the Oxford tories took off the muzzle from Mr. Gladstone, and severed ties which had hitherto, to some extent, fettered his liberty of speech and action. The liberal party throughout England felt that Mr. Gladstone's defeat was a gain to their cause, and rejoiced at his rejection. The contest, however, in South Lancashire was a hard one. Mr. Gladstone stood third on the poll, and was only returned by a small majority over the third conservative candidate.

But while the liberal party had gained a large accession of strength by obtaining the free guidance of an earnest and highly able leader, that gain had been to a great extent counterbalanced by the loss of one of its ablest and purest champions. Few events have ever occurred in this country that have caused a deeper or more wide-spread sorrow than the death of Richard Cobden, which happened in the earlier part of this year. He was a victim to his over-anxious desire to fulfil his public duties. He came to Rochdale in the month of November, 1864, in order to give his constituents an account of his stewardship during the past session. He was suffering from a bronchial affection which rendered it in the highest degree dangerous for him to speak at all, or even to visit at that time of the year a place the climate of which is so inclement as that of Rochdale. And one at least of his friends strongly remonstrated with him against the imprudence of which he was intending to be guilty. Nevertheless he went, and addressed a very large and crowded meeting at great length and with all his usual earnestness and eloquence. From the effects of that exertion he never recovered. The next spring he was recommended by his medical advisers not to go to London till the weather had become genial and settled; and he so far yielded to their advice as to remain at home till near the end of March; but he was nervously anxious to show his constituents that he was not negligent of his duty as their representative. This feeling impelled him to take his seat in the House of Commons at as early a period as possible. The day on which he went up to London happened unfortunately to be, perhaps, the very coldest of the year. He was exposed to the blast of a biting east wind, which produced a severe and immediate aggravation of his bronchial symptoms, under which he rapidly sank. It is scarcely possible for those who have not enjoyed the privilege of personal communication with this great man to understand the nature of that power which he exercised over his contemporaries, and of which he made so magnificent a use for the benefit of his fellow-men.

His vast services were in no small degree due to the fascination which his character and demeanour enabled him to exercise over individuals in private conversation, and over multitudes by his speeches. It all had its basis in a clear understanding, and a thoroughly good heart combined with a character of extraordinary energy and determination. The eloquence with which he was gifted sprang from an earnest desire to convey into the minds and hearts of others the strong convictions and the high and noble feelings by which he was animated. Hence there was nothing artistic or artificial in his speeches. His art was not to conceal art, and that simply because he had no art to conceal; all with him was natural and unaffected. Accordingly his speeches had no formal exordium or peroration. He perhaps never stood up to address any assembly without an earnest purpose in addressing it. He said what he thought and felt with regard to the subject on which he spoke; and when he had finished what he had to say on it he sat down. The feeling which occupied and might almost be said to have engrossed his mind, was a strong desire to benefit his fellow-creatures, and especially his fellow-countrymen; for though eminently cosmopolitan, he was no less eminently patriotic. The author of this work well remembers how in the last conversation he ever had with him, Mr. Cobden expatiated with warm satisfaction on the great increase that had taken place in the number of persons employed in the printing and publication of newspapers since the abolition of the stamp and paper duties, which he had so powerfully helped to remove, and how he dwelt with especial gratification on the fact that this increase in the number of persons employed had been accompanied by a great rise in the payments by which their labour was remunerated. The reader of this work has already enjoyed an opportunity of perusing the noble tribute of just acknowledgment paid to his services in the cause of free-trade by Sir R. Peel. A still more heartfelt and earnest tribute was paid to his memory by his intimate private friend and political associate, Mr.

Bright, who was persuaded so far to do violence to his own feelings and wishes as to go down to the House of Commons on the evening on which it was understood that Lord Palmerston and Mr. Disraeli would refer to the loss which the legislature and the country had suffered by the death of Mr. Cobden. After the leaders on both sides of the House had warmly eulogised the deceased statesman, all eyes were naturally turned to the bench occupied by his friend and political ally; and Mr. Bright, endeavouring to master the emotions by which he was agitated, thus responded to the feeling of the House:

'Sir, the present moment is too near the scene in which I have witnessed the passing away of one of the kindest and purest spirits that ever breathed, for me to be able to express what I feel; but I hope to be able to have some other opportunity of pointing out to some portion of his countrymen the lesson which is to be gathered from the life of him who has passed away. After a close friendship of many years, I never knew how much I loved him till I lost him.' And the strong firm-set man sat down and wept. The tears he shed were worthy of him who dropped them, and of him whose remembrance drew them forth. Indeed, the long and unbroken friendship of these two distinguished men was highly honourable not only to them but to the age they illustrated. Many attempts were made to create jealousies and ill-feelings between them; by extolling one at the expense of the other; but they all failed to cast a shade on the pure and disinterested friendship which bound them together.

The death of Cobden was followed in less than a fortnight by the assassination of President Lincoln, shot in his private box at Lord's theatre, Washington, by an actor named Booth, who after the commission of his crime leapt on the stage brandishing a dagger and exclaiming *Sic semper tyrannis!* and then galloped away on a horse which stood ready saddled and bridled outside the building. The news of this odious crime, coming as it did at the moment of the triumph of the policy

which the murdered president had so vigorously carried out, produced in England a strong and general feeling of horror and indignation. The Queen wrote to Mrs. Lincoln, 'as a widow to a widow,' a letter full of kindly sympathy. In both Houses of Parliament addresses were unanimously voted, and the leaders of both parties vied with each other in expressing their horror of the crime, and their sympathy with the American government and nation.

At a later period of this year another death occurred under very different circumstances. The premier was now within a few days of the completion of the eighty-first year of his age, and though he suffered occasionally from attacks of gout, he still maintained all the strength and sprightliness of his character, and fulfilled the duties of his position with that tact and good humour which had always distinguished him, undergoing an amount of labour which at his age seemed almost miraculous. Except when prevented by the gout, or kept away by other business, he was almost always in his place in the House of Commons from the commencement to the close even of its most protracted sittings, thus affording an example of assiduity and attention to business which few of the youngest members imitated. During the autumn of this year, he had shown some symptoms of failing health, but they were not of a nature to cause serious uneasiness. On Thursday, October 19th, he was confined to his bed by what seemed a slight cold, caught through riding imprudently in an open carriage without an overcoat. On the Monday following, it was rumoured that his indisposition had taken a serious turn; but the report was promptly contradicted. On the morning of the next day, a bulletin was issued, stating that he was improving steadily; but in the afternoon it was announced that he had become worse; and on the following morning that he was gradually sinking; about eleven o'clock he expired. As he died during the recess, there was, of course, no opportunity afforded for a notice of his death by the legislature at the time when it

occurred; but the public press made up for this deficiency by its comments on the services and character of the departed statesman, who for nearly forty years had occupied a very prominent and important position in this country, and had presided over its destinies after having passed the fourscore years alloted by the Psalmist to man. Arrangements were made for his interment in the vault belonging to the family in the Romsey Abbey church, but they were set aside by the special desire of the Queen, in order that his remains might rest where so many other statesmen reposed, in the ancient Abbey of Westminster. Almost every public man in the country took some opportunity of eulogising the deceased premier. As to the appointment of his successor, there could be no doubt or hesitation. Earl Russell's age, his great services, his high reputation, his honourable character, gave him irresistible claims to the vacant place. Equally, of course, Mr. Gladstone became leader of the ministry in the House of Commons. These changes afforded a sufficient guarantee that parliamentary reform and other much-needed changes would not be allowed to remain hung up as they had been during Lord Palmerston's administration.

For a long time past the relations between the employers of labour and the labouring classes had been becoming more and more unsatisfactory, and in this year they were at length brought to an issue in one great and important branch of the national industry—the iron trade. The demand had long been growing less, the profits of the trade had greatly diminished, and many iron-masters had failed, owing, as was alleged, to the pressure of foreign competition. Under these circumstances, the masters determined on a reduction of wages throughout the iron districts; and this resolution had been carried out before the end of the year 1864. Of course it caused much discontent, and numerous meetings of the working men were held, at which the matter was discussed. The result of these discussions was that the South-Staffordshire iron-workers accepted the conditions proposed by the masters

while the North-Staffordshire men refused to submit to them. The latter, therefore, struck, and were supported in their strike by the contributions of those who had consented to continue to work at the reduced prices. The masters at once saw that the North-Staffordshire men thus aided would probably carry their point, and that if they did, the South-Staffordshire masters would have a demand made on them for a rise of wages, and would be compelled to yield in their turn. In order, therefore, to prevent the South-Staffordshire men from helping their North-Staffordshire fellow-workmen, the South-Staffordshire masters determined to co-operate with their northern confrères, and to meet the union of workmen by a combination of masters, and the turn-out of the north by a lock-out in the south. Then came proposals for arbitration; conferences between masters and men; unsuccessful attempts at arbitration under the auspices of Lord Litchfield, the lord-lieutenant of the county; emigration to the United States, Australia, New Zealand. Meanwhile 70,000 men were out of employment, and 100,000*l.* a week which had been paid in wages was diverted into other channels. This was not only a great mischief but a great danger. The masters therefore invited the men to return to their work for the present, promising to leave the amount of wages to be settled afterwards by arbitration. The men on the other hand insisted that the arbitration should precede their return to work. In such a contest the masters had the advantage which belongs to more cultivated intelligence and to the comparative smallness of their numbers, which facilitated combination. But the market-price of labour is regulated by the laws of demand and supply, and is very little influenced either by strikes or lock-outs. The masters, as appears by the result, had miscalculated it, and were forced to yield, first at Newcastle, then at Cleveland; at length the Staffordshire masters found themselves left to fight their battle with the men without further assistance; then the South-Staffordshire masters yielded; and at last

the North-Staffordshire masters, finding that they could not maintain the contest alone, followed their example; and so the dispute ended, not without heavy loss to both the contending parties, producing a greater willingness on both sides to submit their differences to arbitration, instead of settling them by the clumsy expedients of strikes and lock-outs.

Before the general election was well over, the country was alarmed by the intelligence that a disease of the ox-tribe known on the Continent by the name of the steppe-murrain, or rinderpest, had appeared in this country. The disease seems to have been first brought into England by some cattle imported from Holland; and it spread rapidly. Attention was at once directed to the means to be adopted for repressing its ravages. The London cowkeepers met in the end of July to establish a society intended to prevent the spread of the infection. The government took up the matter, and on the 2nd of August the privy-council issued descriptions of the symptoms of the disease, and directions respecting the precautions to be adopted in order to prevent it from spreading. The alarm was increased by the circumstance that when the same complaint visited England a hundred and twenty years before, it was computed that no fewer than 40,000 head of cattle had perished by it, and there seemed to be strong reasons for apprehending that its ravages at this time would be at least equally serious. Towards the end of October it was announced that the cattle attacked with the disease during the past week, so far as they had come under the notice of the inspectors, were 1873, and that during the short time that had elapsed since the first outbreak of the pest the whole number reported to be attacked by it was 17,673, of which 6866 had been killed, 7914 had died, 2047 were still under treatment, and 848 had recovered. Commissioners, who had been appointed to inquire into the origin, nature, and extent of the disease, recommended by a majority that for a limited time all movements of cattle from one place to another should be stopped; and they gave their opinion

that if this regulation were enforced, the murrain must speedily disappear, and that nothing short of this would be sufficient to eradicate the evil. Nevertheless, it continued to spread, and before the end of the year, 73,559 had been attacked, out of which 55,422 had died or been killed. The strong measures that had been taken were, however, beginning to tell on it, and the number of cases was steadily diminishing. In other respects the condition of the country was prosperous and promising. Peace and order had prevailed throughout the year, and everything betokened the continuance of these blessings.

It is true that heavy autumnal rains had considerably damaged the harvest, and diminished the amount of its yield, and that this calamity, combined with the cattle-plague, had caused a great rise in the price of provisions. But the hardship thus suffered was to a considerable extent compensated by abundance of employment and a high rate of wages. The termination of the struggle between the Northern and Southern States allowed the free importation of American cotton, to the great relief of the manufacturing industry of the country; and the only cloud in the political firmament was the bitter feeling that had been roused by the ravages which the Alabama, and other privateers fitted out in this country, had committed on the merchant-ships of the United States. On the other hand, the navies of England and France had met, not, as heretofore, to contend in furious and bloody strife, but to exchange mutual civilities and hospitalities at Cherbourg and Portsmouth.

CHAPTER V.

THE REFORM BILL OF 1867.

THE American civil war had left behind it a root of bitterness requiring all possible care and moderation on the part of our government to prevent from springing up, and creating very serious complications. A large and very influential portion of the English people had manifested a most decided sympathy with the Southern insurgents. This feeling was more deeply resented by the inhabitants of the Northern States because it was entirely unexpected. They had thought that in a struggle which had its origin in the progress of anti-slavery principles, which evidently tended to abolish slavery throughout the Union, they would have the warm sympathy and earnest support of anti-slavery England; and in proportion to the confidence with which they had reckoned on this support was the disappointment they felt when they found that the sympathies of the majority of the governing classes of England were on the side of the South. The feeling was intensified when they saw privateers built in English shipyards preying on their commerce, and English blockade-runners defeating the vigilance of their cruisers, supplying their adversaries with arms, and enabling them to prolong the contest; and their exasperation was further increased by the conviction that the sympathy and assistance which Englishmen afforded to the South was prompted by a desire to weaken the greatest republic that the world had ever seen, and to diminish or destroy her diplomatic influence. The animosity thus excited was not long in manifesting itself. In the beginning of the

year 1866 a motion to the following effect was submitted to the Senate of the United States: 'Whereas England refuses to settle the Alabama claims, the president is requested to withdraw the American minister from England, and issue a proclamation of national non-intercourse.' It is true that the resolution was rejected by a majority of more than two to one but that such a motion should have been seriously entertained was a circumstance calculated to awaken fears that the question at issue would not receive in America that calm and dispassionate consideration by which alone it could be hoped that a satisfactory settlement of the differences between the two nations could be effected.

While the two governments were involved in the discussion of this unhappy difference, a noble-minded American was showing to both countries a more excellent way. Mr. Peabody, a native of the United States, who had long resided in England, where he had realised a vast fortune, determined to devote a large portion of it to the benefit of the country in which he had thus prospered. In the month of March, 1862, he placed in the hands of trustees in whom he had confidence the sum of 150,000*l.* for the benefit of the poor of the metropolis. In his letter, conveying to them an intimation of his purpose, he stated that there were some fundamental principles from which it was his solemn injunction that they should never under any circumstances depart. First and foremost, there was the limitation of its uses absolutely and exclusively to such purposes as might be calculated directly to ameliorate the condition or augment the comforts of the poor who, either by birth or established residence, formed a recognised portion of the population of London. Secondly, that there should be a rigid exclusion from the management of this fund of any influences calculated to impart to it a character either sectarian as regarded religion, or exclusive in relation to local or party politics. In addition to these essential conditions, he conveyed recommendations which he submitted to the judgment of the

trustees, without absolutely limiting their discretion. He suggested that at least a portion of the fund might be applied to the construction of such improved dwellings for the poor as would combine the utmost possible degree of the essentials of healthfulness, comfort, social enjoyment, and economy. In the beginning of the year he added to what he had previously given a second donation of 100,000*l.*; thus raising the amount of his gifts to the poor of this country to no less a sum than a quarter of a million. The trustees to whose management this immense fund was committed were recommended to erect school-houses where they were required, and to take care that they should be well supplied with books, periodicals, and newspapers, so that the inhabitants of the localities in which they were erected might enjoy opportunities of availing themselves of these advantages; lectures were to be organised, and the tenants encouraged to establish co-operative stores for supplying themselves with coals and other necessary articles; and he further desired his trustees to publish annually in the London newspapers, during the month of February, reports of the progress of the buildings which might be erected, of the receipts and expenditure connected with them, as well as with the general management of the funds intrusted to them.

A moderate rent was to be paid by the tenants of the buildings, by which a large and progressively increasing income would be furnished, which Mr. Peabody wished to be applied to the improvement of the dwellings of the working classes of the metropolis and its immediate vicinity. At the end of the year 1868, Mr. Peabody added another 100,000*l.*; thus raising the amount of his donations to the poor of this country to 350,000*l.*, besides gifts amounting in all to two million dollars, which were made by him to form an education-fund for the people of America. The discrimination which guided him in the application of his bounty was little less remarkable than the liberality he showed in bestowing it. Certainly nothing was more needed, or more likely to conduce to the welfare of

the people of the metropolis, than the improvement of those human styes in which a large portion of the class he desired to elevate were lodged; and which, notwithstanding the reports in which Dr. Letheby and others had shown their poisonous impurity, continued to exist in a very slightly improved condition until the noble-minded American inaugurated his well-considered measures for improving the moral and physical atmosphere breathed by the poor of London. His enlightened benevolence was recognised by all classes, from the Queen on the throne to the humblest of her subjects; and when he died England and America vied with one another in doing honour to his memory.

At the commencement of the year, the London Gazette announced that a treaty based on free-trade principles and somewhat similar in its provisions to that which had been entered into with France, had been concluded with the Austrian government. Thus the principles of Cobden and Bright were steadily gaining ground; the commerce of England was being greatly extended, and that not only without injury to other nations, but greatly to their advantage; increasing their wealth, imparting to them those civilising influences which free commercial intercourse exercises on the countries between which it is carried on, and binding them every day more strongly together by cords of peace, which it would soon become difficult, if not impossible, to sever.

The formal opening of the new parliament took place on the 1st of February. The Houses, as usual on such occasions, were occupied with the swearing-in of their members, and other preliminary formalities until Tuesday the 6th of that month; when the Queen, for the first time since the death of her husband, opened the session in person. There was therefore a more than usual interest excited by the event, and a very great multitude congregated to witness the procession. There were some deviations made on this occasion from the ordinary ceremonial. The old gilded state carriage was

replaced by one equally handsome and of more modern build. But the eight cream-coloured horses, according to time-honoured custom, drew the Queen from her own palace to that of the legislature. The weather was propitious, and the reception of her majesty by the people as cordial and hearty as it had ever been. The royal robes were laid on the chair of state, but the Queen did not wear them, and the speech was read for her by the lord chancellor. It was stated at the time that this procedure was in accordance with precedents afforded by Queen Elizabeth, whose custom it is said to have been to address her parliaments through her lord chancellor. As the royal lady stood by the throne, sad and motionless, with downcast eyes, it was evident to the spectators that the long interval that had elapsed since the death of her consort had not sufficed to assuage the heavy sorrow which weighed on her heart. The speech delivered on this occasion promised measures on the subject of capital punishment, of the amendment and consolidation of the bankruptcy and other laws, of the system of the public audit of branches of receipt and expenditure, for the amendment of the law relating to certain classes of legal pensions, and for the alteration of the oaths taken by members of parliament with a view to getting rid of unnecessary declarations and of invidious distinctions between members of different religious communities. It also contained the following reference to the question of parliamentary reform:

'I have directed that information should be procured in reference to the rights of voting in the election of members to serve in parliament for counties, cities, and boroughs. When that information is complete, the attention of parliament will be called to the result thus obtained, with a view to such an improvement in the laws which regulate the rights of voting in the election of members of the House of Commons, as may tend to strengthen our free institutions, and conduce to the public welfare.'

This paragraph showed that the change of the head of the cabinet had produced the change in its public policy which had been anticipated. However, the subjects which chiefly occupied the attention of parliament at its first meeting were the cattle-plague, the conduct of Governor Eyre of Jamaica, and the efforts that had been made to obtain the liberation of Consul Cameron and other Europeans who had for some time been kept in captivity by the King of Abyssinia, and who, it was feared, would not be released by that barbarian unless some very strong measures were adopted by the British government. Of all these questions, that relating to the cattle-plague was the most pressing; for all the efforts that had hitherto been made to repress it had proved ineffectual, and it was necessary that parliament should be appealed to, to grant the powers that were required in order to put an end to its ravages. Accordingly, on Monday the 12th of February Sir George Grey moved for leave to bring in a bill to amend the laws relating to contagious or infectious diseases in cattle or other animals. After enumerating the measures which the government had adopted, he stated that they had been led to the conclusion that the only effectual way to check the progress of the disease was to slaughter the infected animals, to regulate the movement of live cattle by railway and road, and to kill and dispose of the hides of all cattle coming to this country at the point of their debarkation. He then stated in detail the means by which he intended that these objects should be effected, the amount of compensation that it was proposed to give to the owners of the slaughtered cattle, and the rules under which they were to be killed. He meant to limit the bill till July, 1867, and some special restrictions it contained till April 15th, with power to the queen in council to extend their duration. Penalties were also imposed by the bill on those who should violate its provisions. The cost of carrying the act out was to be defrayed by a rate of five shillings a head on all cattle above one year old. It would be open to the House to divide the bill into two parts, in order

that those portions of it about which there was no difference of opinion might be passed at once. Mr. G. W. Hunt, an experienced practical agriculturist, was listened to with much attention on this question. He admitted that the bill was stringent, but contended that it was not stringent enough for the emergency that had arisen. He recommended that from the 1st to the 25th of March there should be no movement of cattle on road or railway, and that infected animals should be killed in local slaughter-houses provided for the purpose; but that there should be relaxations of the rules at certain periods of the year, in order to meet the necessity of stocking the land. The urgency of the matter led all parties to coincide in the expediency of carrying the measure forward as speedily as possible. Accordingly the bill brought in on Monday was read a second time on Wednesday; a bill brought forward by Mr. Hunt being also, by agreement, read on the same day. On Thursday the House went into Committee. Several amendments were moved, and all withdrawn or negatived, except one brought forward by Mr. Hunt, and embodying his recommendations, which was carried by a majority of 264 to 181. Of course this was decisive in favour of his proposal; still the House went on discussing the provisions of the measure with great prolixity, and while a bill suspending the habeas-corpus act in Ireland on account of the prevalence of Fenianism, passed through all its stages in twelve hours, the diseased-cattle bill, urgent as it was, and urgently as it was pressed forward, occupied the legislature for more than a week.

Amidst all the manifold questions which engaged the attention of parliament during this session, Mr. Gladstone's quality as leader of the House was fully tried. Like Lord Palmerston he generally remained in the House from the commencement of the sittings to the close of them, however late the hour of adjournment might be. But he did not, like him, slumber during the greater part of the sittings; on the contrary, he listened attentively to every speaker, answered fully every

question put to him, spoke on every subject, and exhibited a sensitive and conscientious anxiety to discharge his functions as leader of the House, which his friends feared would soon disable him from the performance of the responsible duties which belonged to him, and with his fall precipitate that of the government of which he was the mainstay.

If the ministry had looked merely to its own stability, or to its chances of retention of office, it would not have introduced a reform bill during the first session of a newly-elected parliament, the members of which were still smarting under the recollection of the contests in which they had been engaged, the dangers they had run, the expenses they had incurred, and the demands on their purses they had still to meet, and who might therefore be expected to regard with little favour a measure the effect of which would speedily send them back to their constituents, and compel them again to run the risk and incur the expenses that were so fresh in their remembrance. There can be no doubt that this was the chief cause of the disfavour with which the proposition of the government was regarded by many of those who numbered themselves among the supporters of the administration, and that if Earl Russell and Mr. Gladstone had waited another session or two before introducing their bill, it would have met with a much more favourable reception, and probably have been carried through without much change or difficulty. Nor were there wanting among their colleagues men who, having been introduced into the cabinet by Lord Palmerston, and sharing his feelings with regard to the question of reform, acknowledged, with regret, that it was a question the settlement of which could not be much longer delayed, but wished that it should not be prematurely pressed. There can be no doubt that under ordinary circumstances Lord Russell and Mr. Gladstone would have yielded to considerations based on such strong reasons of expediency. But they felt, and justly felt, that the question had already been hung up too long; that the delay which had

occurred with regard to it was damaging to our institutions, to the character of our public men, and to the House of Commons itself; and therefore that it was not the time to listen to mere considerations of prudence or expediency, but to show the country that there were public men who valued consistency more than place, and were determined, come of it what might, to redeem their pledges in reference to this great and long delayed question.

The measure was submitted to the House of Commons on Tuesday, March 13th, by Mr. Gladstone, who explained its provisions, and asked leave to bring it in. The house was as crowded in every part, as it had been when the reform bill of 1831 was introduced. As this measure went the way which had been trodden before it by so many other abortive reform bills, it is not necessary that we should enter at length into an examination of its details, but simply content ourselves with giving an outline of its most prominent features. The government proposed to reduce the county franchise from 50*l.* to 14*l.* but occupation of property of the value of less than 50*l.* was to include a house as well as land, and the annual value of the house was not to be less than 7*l.* Copyholders and leaseholders were to be placed on the same footing as forty-shilling freeholders. A man having 50*l.* in the bank might claim a vote either for a county or a borough. Compound householders were to have the franchise in boroughs, and tenants of separate parts of a house, and lodgers paying 10*l.* a year for their lodgings. The borough franchise was to be lowered from 10*l.* to 7*l.* The question of a redistribution of seats was not dealt with by the bill, and Mr. Gladstone refused to pledge himself absolutely that the government would introduce a measure on that important part of the subject even in the next session. After a debate which was adjourned till the following day, leave was given to bring in the bill, and it was read a first time.

The bill bore on its surface marks of the ordeal through which it had passed, and of the divided character of the cabinet

by which it had been adopted. Though a good and honest measure, it was evidently a compromise. It was impossible to suppose that Earl Russell and Mr. Gladstone, after their previous declarations on the subject, would have willingly proposed a 14*l.* franchise in the counties, or a 7*l.* franchise in the towns. Such proposals were not calculated to rouse in the constituencies of the empire an enthusiasm like that which the reform bill of 1831 awakened, or even such a feeling as would have reconciled the members of the new parliament to a measure which would have the effect of speedily sending them back to their constituents. But, mild and moderate as it was, it was too strong for a section of the liberal party, which did not hesitate, even before the measure was read a first time, and while the question of its introduction was being debated, to declare its uncompromising hostility to it. That party was described and had a name given to it by Mr. Bright, which has become historical. Speaking of Mr. Horsman, who with Mr. Lowe had distinguished himself by the vehemence of his opposition to the bill, Mr. Bright said: 'The right honourable gentleman is the first of the new party who has expressed his great grief, who has retired into what may be called his political cave of Adullam, and he has called about him every one that was in distress and every one that was discontented. The right honourable gentleman has been long anxious to form a party in this House. There is scarcely any one on this side of the House who is able to address the House with effect, or to take much part in our debates, whom he has not tried to bring over to his party or cabal; and at last the right honourable gentleman has succeeded in hooking the right honourable gentleman the member for Calne. I know there was an opinion expressed many years ago by a member of the treasury bench and of the cabinet, that two men would make a party. When a party is formed of two men so amiable, so discreet, as the two right honourable gentlemen, we may hope to see, for the first time in parliament, a party perfectly harmonious and dis-

tinguished by mutual and unbroken trust. But there is one difficulty which it is impossible to remove. This party of two reminds me of the Scotch terrier, which was so covered with hair that you could not tell which was the head and which was the tail of it.'

The party thus humorously depicted and named proved to be both more numerous and more formidable than Mr. Bright's description of it gave reason to expect. The Cave, as it was henceforth called, became the retreat of a considerable number of whigs, who, either from dislike to reform, or dread of a new election, were anxious to get rid of the bill. Foremost among these was the right honourable Robert Lowe, who, though he had recently been a member of a cabinet which had ridden into office on the ground of its supposed zeal for parliamentary reform, employed against the bill introduced by his former colleagues—with great ability and no little originality of illustration—the worn-out arguments which had been so repeatedly but vainly urged in 1831 and 1832 by Sir C. Wetherell, Mr. Croker, and those who joined them in withstanding the great reform bill. The existence of this party, and the nature of the speeches delivered against the bill by those who composed it, determined the conservative leaders to take a course on which they probably would not otherwise have ventured, and to endeavour to defeat the very moderate attempt made by the government to settle a question so often raised and so often deferred. They summoned a meeting of their supporters for the purpose of considering the manner in which the ministerial proposal should be dealt with. The Earl of Derby was prevented from attending by an attack of illness; but an address was delivered by Mr. Disraeli, which is said to have roused the enthusiasm of his followers; and it was resolved that the bill should be strenuously resisted. But as the conservative party though strong was numerically inferior to that which supported the government, it seemed likely that their opposition to the bill would have no other effect than that of delaying its

progress through the House, and perhaps extorting some concessions from the government. It was, therefore, to them a matter of great satisfaction, and of no small dismay to the government, when Earl Grosvenor, eldest son of the Marquis of Westminster, and usually regarded as a steady supporter of ministers, gave notice that on the question of the second reading he would propose an amendment to the effect that it would be inexpedient to discuss any bill for the reduction of the franchise until the House should have before it the entire scheme contemplated by the government for the amendment of the representation of the people. This announcement showed that the Palmerstonian whigs were dissatisfied, and ready to combine with the conservatives to defer again the consideration of this often-introduced and long-delayed measure. And it soon became evident that the notice was instigated partly by a natural desire on the part of the representatives of small boroughs to know whether the towns by which they were sent were to be disfranchised or not, partly by a jealousy of the influence which the views of Mr. Bright and his party were supposed to have exercised over the decisions of the cabinet, but still more by the fear that the extension of the franchise, if granted, would be used as a means of obtaining a much larger measure of redistribution than the old whig party was willing to agree to. The combination thus formed could not easily be defeated, except by making concessions which in the opinion of the leader of the House were calculated to lower the character of the government; which Mr. Gladstone was the last man in the world to compromise. At the same time it was his duty to escape that contingency if it could be done by means that he deemed consistent with the honour of the administration. Therefore on the night before the commencement of the Easter recess, in moving that the House at its rising should adjourn to the 9th of April, he gave the following explanations:

'I will now state the views of the government with regard

to certain motions on the paper. With regard to the motion of the member for Bridgewater, that it is not expedient to go into the franchise bill until the House has before it the bill for the redistribution of seats, the government will announce to the House the nature of their proposal as to the redistribution of seats, that the question may be dealt with by parliament. After the second reading of the franchise bill, and before it is committed, they will be prepared to state their intentions with respect to the franchise of Scotland and Ireland, and the questions connected with the redistribution of seats. They will be put in the form of bills, and laid before the House for the purpose of giving it information. After that, they propose to proceed with the franchise bill for England and Wales until its fate is determined. As for the motion of the noble earl opposite (Grosvenor), it is their intention to resist it, because they regard it, as far as they can judge, as a motion of want of confidence in the administration.'

Earl Grosvenor, who happened at the moment to be sitting on the opposition benches, rose and inquired whether Mr. Gladstone would really persist in giving no information until after the second reading. Mr. Gladstone, in a resolute tone, answered, 'Unquestionably.'

At a later period of the evening Mr. Gladstone availed himself of the opportunity afforded him by a discussion on electoral statistics to appeal to the House, and through it to the country, to admit to the franchise the 400,000 men on whom the bill proposed to confer it. His speech was in fact a call on those to whom the bill gave votes, and on those who thought them entitled to the franchise, to come forward and give their support to the government measure during the Easter holidays. This call was responded to by Mr. W. E. Forster, who had recently been appointed under-secretary to the colonies, and who had scarcely spoken since his acceptance of office until this moment, when he earnestly and very effectively supported the appeal of his leader.

That appeal met with a tolerably hearty response. The friends of the government worked hard out of doors from the time that the House rose till the period of its reassembling. At Birmingham Mr. Bright plainly told a large meeting that their representation in the House of Commons was a sham and a farce; and that if they wanted an effective reform bill they must take the matter into their own hands, and bring a strong pressure from without to bear on the legislature. Mr. Gladstone delivered two addresses at Liverpool on the same subject, in which he declared that he and his colleagues were determined to stand or fall by their franchise bill; that they had crossed the Rubicon, and burnt their ships.

On Thursday, the 12th of April, the question of the second reading of the bill was brought forward by Mr. Gladstone. Earl Grosvenor then moved the amendment of which he had given notice. The question raised by the franchise bill had been so often discussed, that it was hardly to be expected that anything new could be said on the subject. Men's thoughts were therefore turned rather to the division than to the debate. It was generally expected that, notwithstanding the combination of parties by which the amendment was supported, the government would triumph; but as the debate dragged on night after night, rumour continually diminished the expected majority. At length, about three in the morning of Saturday, the 28th of April, the division came off. A large crowd watched in Westminster-hall till this late, or rather early, hour, to know the result. The numbers were announced to be—

For the amendment	313
Against	318
Majority in favour of the government ...	5

The bill was then read a second time.

This division was one of the largest, perhaps, the very largest, that had ever occurred. Out of 658 members, including the speaker, 631 had voted. The excitement in the House

was unparalleled, and broke forth in loud shouts of triumph, not from the conquering ministerialists, but from the conservatives and the party of the cave. The opposition had good grounds for their exultation, and the ministerialists for their depression: for the victory of the government was worse than a defeat. Their majority was so small as hardly to leave a prospect of carrying the measure; and yet, having a majority they were obliged, after all the pledges they had given, to proceed with the bill, to dissolve, or to resign. Intense interest was felt to know which of these courses they would adopt. The consequence was, that at the time of the commencement of business on Monday afternoon the House was crowded, in anticipation of a statement which Mr. Gladstone had announced that he intended to make. He rose shortly before five o'clock, and informed the House that the government would proceed with the bill; that on Monday evening next leave would be asked to introduce the distribution-of-seats bill; that bills for Scotland and Ireland would be brought in on the same evening, and would be proceeded with at the same time with the franchise bill. The House received these announcements in silence. The decisive battle between the two parties was still to be fought.

On Monday the 7th of May the struggle took a new shape. On that day the whole of the government plan of reform was laid before the House. Besides the franchise bill, which, as we have already seen, had been very fully discussed, the promised bill for the redistribution of seats, and the Scotch and the Irish bills were brought forward. The redistribution bill did not wholly deprive any borough of its franchise, and did not alter the number of members in the House of Commons; but by taking one member from some small boroughs that had hitherto sent two representatives to parliament, and by grouping small boroughs together, it diminished the number of members by forty-nine. Of the seats thus obtained it gave twenty-six to counties, or to the divisions or subdivisions of counties, and an

additional member each to Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, and Salford. It divided the borough of Tower Hamlets, giving two members to each of its divisions. It made Chelsea and Kensington a borough returning two members, and gave a member each to Burnley, Staleybridge, Gravesend, Hartlepool, Middlesborough, Dewsbury, and the University of London. The remaining seven seats were allotted to Scotland and Ireland. At the same time Mr. Gladstone announced that the Queen would not be advised by the present government to prorogue parliament until these measures should have become law. On Monday May 14th the redistribution bill was read a second time, in a House consisting of some nine or ten members. Mr. Gladstone announced at the close of the debate, in reply to a question put by Sir S. Northcote, that he would, on behalf of the government, accede to a proposition to combine the franchise and redistribution bills, and submit them to one committee on that day fortnight. Accordingly, at the specified time the two bills were committed together, Mr. Gladstone proposing and the committee accepting, some amendments which were required in order to effect their amalgamation. We will not weary our readers by tracing the progress of the bill through committee; suffice it to say, that after a defeat on a motion of Sir R. Knightley, that 'it be an instruction to the committee that they have power to make provision for the better prevention of bribery and corruption,' the measure floated on till Monday, 18th of June, when the clause was reached which enacted a rental franchise in boroughs. Lord Dunkellin, usually a supporter of the government, moved as an amendment on this clause that rating should be substituted for rental, on the ground that this alteration would oppose an insurmountable 'barrier to universal suffrage,' while it would admit the best-qualified of the working class to the franchise. On this motion the House divided, and the numbers were:

For the amendment	315
Against	304
Majority against the government	11

The announcement of these numbers was received by the opposition and the cave with shouts even more deafening than those which had been raised after the division on the second reading.

In consequence of the absence of the Queen in Scotland, some days elapsed before the determination of the cabinet could be known; and during that period the House was kept in suspense, not knowing whether the government would determine to resign, to dissolve, or to go on with the bill. At length, on Tuesday, June the 26th, it was announced in both Houses that ministers had decided on adopting the first-mentioned course, that the Queen after urging some objections, had acquiesced in the propriety of their decision; and that consequently they only held office till their successors could be appointed. In the House of Commons Mr. Gladstone gave the following statement of the reasons which had determined him and his colleagues to tender their resignations:

'The question before the government was, whether they ought to resign their offices, or whether they should accept the vote that had been come to, and endeavour to adapt it to the framework of their measure of reform. When we came to examine the effect of the motion, we were struck with the difficulty of adopting any form of rating franchise that would express the scale of suffrage which we had laid down as the basis of our measure. We found that a six-pound rating franchise would operate to create a great divergence of franchise in boroughs and parts of boroughs. And it was found that in sixteen boroughs about the same number of persons would have been admitted to the suffrage at a six-pound rating franchise as was contemplated by the government. Therefore, by accepting the vote there would have been a breaking-up of the framework of the measure. But besides this, the government had to consider the previous history of the bill, especially with reference to the pledges given from time to time—advisedly and deliberately given—to stand or fall by the measure. That is a pledge which should rarely be given by a government, but

it has been given by this government under the deepest conviction of public duty in regard to dealing with the question of reform, and with respect to the character of public men and of parliament. Therefore it was that the life of the administration was attached to the life of the measure they proposed. We have felt a sincere desire to conciliate those who are opposed to reform even at the expense of those who are devoted to it, and we have done so by making the number of those to whom the suffrage was to be extended less than that proposed by the bill of 1860. Therefore it was that we consented to make changes in the procedure on the measure, and we brought in a redistribution bill in deference to the opinion of the House and in opposition to our own. These two provisions were objected to—a clause relating to leaseholds in boroughs and a detail of the county franchise; and they were withdrawn, though the withdrawal of the latter was opposed by a vote of their own supporters. Looking to the rejection of Lord Grosvenor's amendment by a majority of only five; to the success of Sir R. Knightly's instruction ingrafting the subject of bribery and corruption, which was carried against the government by ten; to Captain Hayter's amendment, which was intended to frustrate the bill; to Lord Stanley's motion without notice to take the clauses of the redistribution bill first, which was supported by 280 members; to Mr. Walpole's motion to make the county franchise 20*l.* instead of 14*l.*, which was only rejected by fourteen; to Mr. Hunt's motion for making the county franchise a rating franchise, which was negatived by only seven; and to Lord Dunkellin's motion to a like effect as to the borough franchise, which was carried by a majority of eleven;—looking, I say, at all this the government found it impossible to carry on the bill, and we had no alternative but a resignation, and a persistence in our resignation.'

Mr. Gladstone said there was no alternative but that of resignation. But there surely was another course open to him and his colleagues, which, though he was silent with

respect to it, was much in the minds and apprehensions of his hearers,—the alternative of an appeal to the country by a dissolution of parliament. But this alternative was really excluded by the disunion which prevailed in the cabinet itself, containing as it did members of the old whig party, who had given a reluctant assent to the introduction of the measure, but who shared to some extent the feeling that was entertained against it by many members of the party to which they belonged, and were not therefore prepared to make strong efforts or great sacrifices in order to force the measure forward.

An administration was formed by Lord Derby, of which the following were the principal members constituting the new cabinet:

First Lord of the Treasury	Earl of Derby.
Lord Chancellor	Lord Chelmsford.
Lord President of the Council	Duke of Buckingham.
Lord Privy Seal	Earl of Malmesbury.
Chancellor of the Exchequer	Mr. Disraeli.
Home Secretary	Mr. Walpole.
Foreign Secretary	Lord Stanley.
Colonial Secretary	Earl of Carnarvon.
War Secretary	General Peel.
Indian Secretary	Viscount Cranbourne.
President of the Board of Trade ...	Sir S. Northcote.
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster ...	Earl of Devon.
Postmaster-general	Duke of Montrose.
First Lord of the Admiralty	Sir J. Pakington.
Lord Lieutenant of Ireland	Marquis of Abercorn.
Chief Secretary for Ireland	Lord Naas.
Woods and Forests	Lord J. Manners.

While England was engaged in watching these events, a war, short, fierce, and decisive, had been waged between Prussia and Italy on the one hand, and Austria on the other, which raged and swept-by like a tornado, ending in a peace dictated by Prussia; so that parliament, occupied by the reform question, had hardly time to consider the bearings of the contest on the interests of this country before it was terminated.

It was not till Monday, July 9th, that Lord Derby had so

far overcome the difficulties attendant on the formation of a conservative administration as to be able to make his ministerial announcement in the House of Lords. On that day the gilded chamber of the peers was filled with an illustrious audience, for among those who had come to listen to the opening statement of the new premier were the Prince and Princess of Wales and the Duke of Edinburgh. Lord Derby had lost much of that buoyant and impetuous vigour which in former times obtained for him the title of 'the Rupert of debate.' His voice, his manner, and his whole bearing proved that age and infirmities were coming on him, and that in taking office he had yielded reluctantly to an overwhelming sense of duty. However, he girded himself up resolutely to the work that was before him, and made the necessary announcements with great skill and tact. Referring to the reform question, he said that he and his colleagues were entirely free and unpledged on that subject, and that he should be especially observant of an axiom laid down by Earl Russell, that no government should undertake a measure of reform without seeing a fair possibility of being able to carry it; and this he believed could only be done by an understanding and a joint action between the two great political parties in the state. He added, that he did not deny the existence of anomalies in our constitutional system, and that there were many persons who did not possess the franchise that were fairly entitled to it; but he was afraid that those who professed to be most ardent in the cause of reform would not be contented with any measure which was likely to be carried in parliament. He should be glad, however, if any opportunity occurred for passing a safe and satisfactory measure. He promised the earliest attention of the government to the law of bankruptcy, the administration of the poor-law, and the condition of workhouses—a question to which public attention had recently been drawn by a gentleman who, for the sake of obtaining information with regard to it, had disguised himself and passed a night in the casual-ward

of one of these establishments amidst the vagrants who happened to tenant it on that occasion.

Under the circumstances in which ministers were placed, their best, indeed their only, course was to wind up the business of parliament as speedily as they could. But this was not effected till the 10th of August, on which day it was prorogued by commission, with the usual formalities.

While ministers were thus engaged, demonstrations were made outside, which exercised a considerable influence on the policy that they determined to adopt. The failure of the reform bill of the late administration made it abundantly evident to those who regarded themselves as unjustly excluded from the franchise, that their claims would never be conceded by the legislature unless, as in 1832, they took the matter into their own hands, and showed in an unmistakable manner both to friends and foes that they were thoroughly in earnest, and that whatever conservative reaction there might be among the enfranchised classes, it did not extend to those who were denied a share in the election of representatives to the House of Commons. Several associations were formed for the purpose of giving a plain and practical contradiction to the statement industriously circulated that the people were indifferent on this question. The most active and important of these associations were the Reform Union and the Reform League, the latter of which owed much of its efficiency to the energy of its president, Mr. Beales, a highly respectable barrister. This body endeavoured, by holding outdoor meetings, and in other ways, to agitate in favour of the measure from which it took its name. Unfortunately, as generally happens in such cases, meetings that were composed of peaceable, orderly, well-intentioned persons, who assembled only to press in a constitutional manner a claim which they conceived to be founded on manifest justice, were also attended by a multitude of roughs, pickpockets, and other bad characters, seeking to serve their own criminal purposes by creating disorder and confusion. The

council of the league thought that one of the most effectual means they could adopt for promoting their own views was to display their numbers and determination to the upper and influential classes by holding a monster meeting in Hyde Park, and Mr. Beales assured his colleagues and associates that this might be done without any violation of the law. The government was of a different opinion, and determined to prevent the proposed meeting from being held. A notice forbidding it was issued by Sir Richard Mayne, the head of the London police. Mr. Walpole, an excellent, accomplished, amiable man, but somewhat deficient in the firmness required in the holder of the office he filled, at a crisis like the present, thought, and his colleagues thought with him, that the purposed demonstration was likely to disturb the public peace, and lead to riot and disorder. However, Mr. Beales and his associates conceiving that they had a legal right to hold their meeting in the Park, determined to disregard the notice of the chief commissioner and the prohibition of the government. Accordingly, on the 23rd of July, numerous processions with bands of music converged on the Marble Arch. The gates had been closed at five o'clock. A large body of police guarded the Park, and an immense crowd of spectators assembled about the arch to see what would occur. The appearance of the first detachment of the procession was welcomed with loud cheers, showing that the crowd sympathised with the reformers, and a line was at once opened through it, by which Mr. Beales, Colonel Dickson, and other members of the council of the league advanced towards the gate and made a formal demand for admission, which was refused. Mr. Beales then asked by whose orders he was excluded? and he was informed that it was by the authority of Sir Richard Mayne. Seeing that farther remonstrance would be useless, he turned away, and led the procession towards Trafalgar-square, where a meeting was duly held, and resolutions in favour of reform, and votes of thanks to Messrs. Gladstone and Bright for their fidelity to a cause

which others had basely deserted, were carried unanimously. The meeting then dispersed, and those who composed it quietly retired. Nothing could be more orderly and praiseworthy than their conduct. They had asserted what they had been advised to be a legal right, and they had adopted what they conceived to be the best and most practical mode of exposing the falsity of the statement which had been made over and over again, that the working classes were indifferent to the franchise. They hoped and believed that their example would be followed in the other great towns of the kingdom, and that parliament would be made to see that not only in the metropolis but throughout the kingdom the exclusion of the working classes from the franchise was really regarded as a substantial grievance, and that they were prepared to enforce their claim to it by all legal and constitutional means. But while the procession was on its way towards Trafalgar-square the promiscuous crowd that remained behind was not disposed to allow the matter to end in this peaceful manner. On either side of the Marble Arch they laid hold of the Park railings, which were not very strongly fixed, and swayed them to and fro till they succeeded in overturning them. They then rushed over them, bearing down the resistance which the police offered to them, did much mischief to the flowers and shrubs, and remained masters of the Park till the approach of night obliged them to retire to their respective homes. The conduct of these persons was, somewhat unjustly, attributed to the league. No doubt their procession was in some degree calculated to produce the consequences that actually resulted from it; yet it is only just that a distinction should be drawn between the orderly conduct of the persons who took part in the procession, and the riotous behaviour of sympathising onlookers. But it is probable that the latter had more influence than the former. It opened the eyes of the government more than all the numerous peaceful demonstrations that were made at the time, and convinced them that a settlement of this great question could

not much longer be delayed, and that if they wished to retain office, they must make up their minds to grant a considerable extension of the suffrage. As we said with regard to the reform bill of 1832, that it was really carried by the mob of Birmingham and the other parts of the kingdom, so we may say with equal truth of the reform bill of 1867, that it was mainly carried by the Hyde Park rioters. Parliament had trifled with this question till the people showed in an unmistakable manner that it could not be trifled with any longer without serious danger; and after having rejected Mr. Gladstone's bill it ended by passing a much stronger measure under the auspices of men who had all along displayed their hostility to every attempt at reform. And they were right in determining to make this tardy concession. These large gatherings and the conduct they displayed were ascribed by the opponents of reform to the influence of a little knot of agitators, and they argued that the persons who were guilty of the conduct we have related had thereby shown their sovereign unfitness for the franchise. But wise and thoughtful men saw that these gatherings and disturbances were the expression of a strong feeling that could not safely be despised. They knew that neither Mr. Beales nor any of his associates could stir these multitudes as they had done, unless there were real and deeply-felt grievances at the bottom of the demand for reform made in this violent and unpleasant manner, and they also knew that if any class was suffering from the action of real wrongs, the only way to get them redressed was to allow the voice of that class to be heard in parliament by granting the franchise to a large portion at least of the persons composing it. The result showed that this might be done without danger to the state, and that a House of Commons elected to a great extent by persons belonging to the class represented by the members of the reform league and the Hyde Park rioters might be composed of men of very moderate opinions and strong anti revolutionary feelings.

The reform question at this moment occupied so prominent a position in the eyes of the nation and of the legislature, that it has been necessary that we should follow out its history, which in fact constitutes the political history of the year, to its conclusion. We must now revert to one necessary portion of the parliamentary work of this as of every other year,—the financial statement of the chancellor of the exchequer, to which now, as on former occasions, the genius of Mr. Gladstone gave an interest which none before or after him had been able to impart to it. This statement, like most of those which had recently preceded it, was of a highly satisfactory character. The estimated revenue was 67,575,000*l.*; the estimated expenditure 66,225,000*l.*; leaving a surplus of 1,350,000*l.* The chancellor of the exchequer proposed to repeal the duties on timber and pepper; to put the wine duties on a fairer footing, by making them to depend on the percentage of alcohol they contained; to lower the duty on stage-coaches and post-horses from a penny to a farthing a mile, in order to enable them to compete with railways on more equal terms. These reductions would leave a balance of 788,000*l.*, which Mr. Gladstone proposed should be applied to pay off a portion of the national debt. He pointed out that the expense of our present armaments and the interest of debts incurred in past years, formed 83 per cent. of the national expenditure, and that consequently the amount devoted to the civil charges was only 17 per cent. of the whole. He dwelt on the possible effects of the exhaustion of our coal-fields; and on the financial measures that would be required to maintain the commercial supremacy of the country in case that event should occur. The new government wisely, and indeed almost necessarily, adopted the financial proposals of their predecessors.

The failure of the old and, as it had hitherto been regarded, respectable and well-established firm of Overend, Gurney, and Co., which had recently been put on the footing of a joint-stock limited-liability company, caused a panic in the City such as

had rarely, if ever, occurred before. It took place on the 10th of May, and was followed by an immediate rise of the Bank of England rate of discount, which was already as high as 8 per cent., to the still higher rate of 9. Bankruptcy after bankruptcy ensued. The English Joint-stock Bank failed; and this failure was speedily succeeded by that of the great railway contractors Peto and Betts. In dire sequence to these followed the fall of the firms of Shripton, another great railway contractor; of the Imperial Mercantile Credit Association; of the Consolidated Discount Company; and the consequence of these failures was that multitudes of other firms suddenly found themselves on the verge of bankruptcy.

Under these circumstances the government acted with a promptitude and decision which probably saved the country from still heavier disasters. The very same night in the House of Commons Mr. Gladstone announced that, after numerous conferences with bank directors and others capable of advising him with regard to the conduct that should be pursued in this crisis, he had determined to suspend the Bank-charter act. The Bank, in order to afford as much relief as possible, had that day raised its loan and discount to something over 4,000,000*l.*, and had consequently reduced their reserves to about 3,000,000*l.* The decision of the government had the effect of allaying the panic; and though many serious failures followed, public confidence was gradually restored, and the crisis terminated.

No event that happened in the course of this year excited more attention or evoked stronger feelings than the conduct of Governor Eyre in 1865, which was discussed with very great earnestness in parliament, in the press, and by the English people generally during this year. In suppressing an insurrection in Jamaica, he had sanctioned the trial of several of those who were alleged to have taken part in the insurrection by young and inexperienced officers, whose sentence of death had been followed by the immediate execution of the condemned persons. But the case which excited the greatest amount of

attention, and brought on Governor Eyre the most severe condemnation in this country, was that of George William Gordon, a man of colour, occupying a respectable position and a member of the House of Assembly. We give the circumstances which attended this man's execution, and the reasons which, in his opinion, justified it, in the words of the governor himself:

'I find everywhere,' he wrote, 'the most unmistakable evidence that George William Gordon, a coloured member of the House of Assembly, had not only been mixed up in the matter, but was himself, through his own misrepresentations and seditious language addressed to the ignorant black people, the chief cause and origin of the whole rebellion. Mr. Gordon was now in Kingston; and it became necessary to decide what action should be taken with regard to him. Having obtained a deposition on oath that certain seditious printed notices had been sent through the post-office, directed in his handwriting, to the parties who had been leaders in the rebellion, I at once called upon the custos to issue a warrant and capture him. For some little time he managed to evade the capture: but finding that sooner or later it was inevitable, he proceeded to the house of General O'Connor and there gave himself up. I at once had him placed on board the Wolverine for safe custody, and conveyed to Morant Bay.'

There the unfortunate man was tried by court-martial, and hanged, with the sanction of the governor, whose conduct was afterwards approved by the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly of the Island. In England, however, it was generally regarded in a very different light. Gordon, though a man of colour, was a British subject, and as slavery was abolished, he was as much a British subject, as much entitled to any protection the law affords to British subjects, as any white man in the United Kingdom. If he could legally be dealt with in this manner, then in case of an insurrection taking place in England, any member of the British parliament might be seized, carried off to some place in which martial law had been pro-

claimed, tried by court-martial, and hung immediately after. To most people in England the conduct of Governor Eyre appeared to be utterly indefensible. The only excuse that it seemed possible to make for it, was, that there might be danger of a rescue. But in Gordon's case there could be no such danger, for he was on board a British man-of-war, where he might have been detained, and allowed time and opportunity to prepare his defence, and produce witnesses who might perhaps have proved that he had not been guilty of the conduct attributed to him. The Russell government yielded to the feeling that generally prevailed by issuing a commission to inquire into the matter, recalling Governor Eyre, and sending out Sir H. Storks, a man of very different character, to replace him. Nothing more fully showed the sort of justice which was dealt to Gordon and the other accused persons than a letter addressed to Mr. Charles Buxton, M.P., by Lieutenant Brand, an officer who had sat on one of these courts, the spirit of which may be judged by the following extract: 'If you have a spark of gentlemanly or generous feeling left, you will contradict your letter relative to my court, or I shall expect you to give me satisfaction in a way more suited to my tastes. And you know, sir, that it is a damned cowardly thing for you to write officers (who did their best, and whose acts were fully approved by their superiors), down, when you well know they are not allowed to write in a newspaper,' &c.

The admiralty of the conservative government showed their opinion of Mr. Brand's conduct—as, of course, any admiralty must have done—by at once suspending him, and recalling him; but they could not bring to life again those who had suffered in conformity with the sentence of his 'court.' It ought to be added, that he subsequently apologised in the fullest and handsomest manner to Mr. Buxton. There was nothing in his conduct that affected his character as an officer and a gentleman; but there was much to disqualify him from sitting in judgment in a trial for life and death. The view we

have taken of Governor Eyre's conduct was, we believe, that of an overwhelming majority of the people of this country; but it is only just to the governor to set against the general condemnation of the very characteristic apology of one whose opinions are always entitled to respectful consideration.

'All the light,' wrote Thomas Carlyle, 'that has yet reached me on Mr. Eyre and his history in the world goes steadily to establish the conclusion that he is a just, humane, and valiant man, faithful to his trusts everywhere, and with no ordinary faculty for executing them; and his late services in Jamaica were of great, perhaps incalculable value, as certainly they were of perilous and appalling difficulty; somewhat like the case of "fire" suddenly reported in the ship's powder-room in mid ocean, where the moments mean the ages, and life and death hang on the use or misuse of the moments; and, in short, that penalty and clamour are not the things the governor merits from any of us, but honour and thanks, and wise imitation, should similar emergencies arise, on the great scale or on the small, in whatever we are governing. The English nation has never loved anarchy, nor was wont to spend its sympathy on miserable mad seditions, especially of this inhuman and half-brutish type; but always loved order and the prompt suppression of seditions, and reserved its tears for something worthier than the promoters of such delirious and fatal enterprises who had got their wages for their industry. Has the English nation, then, changed altogether? I flatter myself it has not—not yet quite; but only that certain loose and superficial portions of it have become a great deal louder, and not any wiser, than they formerly used to be. At any rate, though much averse at any time, and at this time in particular, to figure on committees or to run into public noises without call, I do at once feel that as a British citizen I should and must make you welcome to my name for your committee, and to whatever good it can do you; with the hope only that many other British men of much more significance in such a matter

will at once or gradually do the like; and that, in fine, by wise effort and persistence, a blind and disgraceful act of public injustice may be prevented, and an egregious folly as well; not to say, for none can say or compute, what a vital detriment throughout the British empire is such an example set to all colonies and governors the British empire has.'

The reply we have to make to this apology for Governor Eyre is, that the feelings of the English people were not drawn out towards those who were guilty of participating in the insurrection and the enormities by which it was attended, but towards those who were, or at any rate who might have been innocent. They did not sympathize with proved guilt, but they feared that many might be condemned by young officers like Lieutenant Brand on mere loose suspicion; on evidence which might have been rebutted by contradictory evidence, if opportunity had been afforded for its production. They did not think it right that any one man, however black his skin, should suffer unjustly or without full proof of his guilt. And as for the analogy of the fire breaking out in the powder-room, that did not apply to Mr. Gordon, who had voluntarily yielded himself up to justice; who was as fully secured on board the Wolverine as if he had been in Newgate: and who therefore without any danger at all might have been reserved for fair trial, and deliberate execution, if on such trial he was found to have deserved it. Meanwhile funds were raised on the one hand for the prosecution of Mr. Eyre, and on the other hand for his defence; and in due time the case was brought before the court of Queen's Bench, where Mr. Justice Blackburn delivered a charge which induced the grand jury not to find the bill; but Lord Chief-Justice Cockburn subsequently stated that if he had been aware that the law would have been laid down as it was understood to have been stated, he should have felt it his duty to attend in his place in court, and to have declared his views of the law to the jury. He added, and Mr. Justice Blackburn assented to the truth of the assertion, that almost on the eve of the delivery of the charge Mr. Justice Black-

burn thought that the removal of Mr. Gordon was unjustifiable; though in the charge itself he had given a different opinion.

Some other ineffectual attempts were made to procure the legal condemnation of the act of Governor Eyre, and as he had been put to considerable expense in consequence of these proceedings, the conservative government decided that he should be reimbursed from the public funds. This determination was perhaps justifiable, inasmuch as the charges against Mr. Eyre had fallen to the ground; for it would be hardly fair to allow a person in his position to be put to heavy and perhaps ruinous expenses on account of acts which the great tribunals of this country had decided not to be illegal, and which therefore must be regarded by the government as warrantable, whatever their private opinion as to their lawfulness might be.

The year 1866 was signalised by a great scientific exploit——the successful laying of the electric telegraph across the Atlantic ocean. The Great Eastern steamship, accompanied by the screw steamers Albany and Medway, was employed to carry the cable from the island of Valentia, situated on the western coast of Ireland. Every precaution that the experience of the previous attempts furnished had been taken to insure success. For the first six days all went well; the sea was calm, the cable ran out steadily, the electric tests were perfect, and messages passed backwards and forwards between the land and the great Eastern as she proceeded. On the 18th July, when the vessel was about six hundred miles from her port of departure and one thousand from Newfoundland, a 'foul fluke' or entanglement of the cable appeared. Fortunately it was discovered in time. The running-out of the cable was stopped before the fluke entered the paying-out machinery. The knot was carefully and patiently disentangled amidst heavy rain and a strong wind blowing; and after some delay the vessel proceeded on her voyage, and safely reached Newfoundland on the 29th of July; the cable having been laid down in good order, and transmitting messages sent by it

in a quite satisfactory manner. Having thus accomplished the main object of her voyage, the great ship next proceeded, with the assistance of the vessels that had attended her, to endeavour to pick up the cable which had previously been laid, to splice it, and then carry it forward to the place where the other had been landed. Some idea may be formed of the skill, patience, and perseverance with which this operation was carried out by a simple statement of the various attempts that were made to effect the object, and the success which at last crowned them. The Atlantic cable squadron left Newfoundland a few days after it had succeeded in laying the cable. On the 10th of August the Albany, assisted by the Terrible, succeeded in laying hold of the broken cable in latitude 51° 27′ 30″ N. long., 38° 50′ W., and brought it up to the surface, but lost it again through the breaking of the chain. At midnight on the 15th the Great Eastern laid hold of it and brought it up five hundred fathoms, but in attempting to fasten it to buoys she also lost the rope and cable. On the 17th she once more succeeded in laying hold of it, and raised it to her bow sheaves, but in attempting to bring it on board it parted, owing to the roughness of the sea at the time. On the 19th she grappled it again, raised it eighty-six fathoms from the bottom and buoyed the bight. On the same day the Albany laid hold of the cable, but lost it again. On the 26th the Medway laid hold of it, and held it for three days, at the end of which time it parted. In the night of the same day the Albany grappled it, raised it to the surface, and attached it to buoys. On the 27th the Great Eastern secured it to a buoy, and brought on board two miles of it. On the 1st of September she grappled the cable in two places, and it was also brought up by the Medway two miles to the west of her. On the 2nd of September the splicing was accomplished, and the paying-out commenced. But we will tell the rest of the story in the words of Mr. Deane, who gave a minute account of the whole transaction of which he was an eye-witness:

'Then came the splicing of the recovered cable with the coiled one in our tanks, and the very delicate operation of passing the cable round from the bow to the stern of the ship. This successfully accomplished, the order was given "full speed ahead;" and we soon had our screw clear and the cable streaming out in the wake of the ship; and so by eight o'clock in the morning (scarcely any one, I think, had turned in that night) we were safely paying out again, and the ship's head was once more towards the shore of Newfoundland.

'Our voyage after this, the *great* success of the expedition, was still prosperous and free from disaster. At a speed not exceeding on the average from five to five and a half miles an hour (our engineers had been taught by experience to prefer the safe progress of the tortoise to that of the hare), we continued to pay out the cable from the time of passing overboard the happily-made splice on the morning of September 2nd, until early dawn on the 8th. No fault had occurred, and nothing but the promptings of a natural anxiety that such should *not* occur had even suggested one; and as the day broke, and a glorious sunrise poured a flood of gold along the wake of the good ship still heading westward, it lighted up a scene of singular peace and beauty. One might well feel its sentiment to be akin to that influence which we may surely hope for the great work so near its accomplishment,—"peace on earth." The long line of broken headlands and cliffs and inland mountains, seen distantly on each side, told us that we were in Trinity bay. In company were her Majesty's ships Terrible and Lily, the Margaretta Stevenson, the Hawk, and the governor of Newfoundland on board the Medway; and the huge Great Eastern, which now for a second time within two months was bearing into the little land bay of Heart's Content a fragile thread of more than golden worth, to be a mighty chain between the old world and the new.

'As if to curb a too exultant feeling, it was some thirteen miles distant from the entrance of our longed-for haven that

the only "fault" of any moment occurred. At six o'clock, almost as a message from Ireland was flashing through the wire, the arrow of light became darkness on the scale of the dynamometer—an indication too well known to the electrician—but, thanks to the testing arrangement introduced, and for the first time practised during the present expedition, by Mr Willoughby Smith, the discovery of "dead earth" (that *bête noire* of the testing-room) was instantly made; the faulty part of the cable—unlike some defaulters—had not even succeeded in reaching the sea before detection; and to stop the ship's way, to cut the cable just forward of the ship's paying-out machinery, to make a splice with a fresh length coiled in the after-tank, and to recommence paying-out, were a mere matter of loss of the few hours occupied in these operations. Indeed, when we sat down to breakfast in the grand saloon the ship was already under weigh, and the alarm of "dead earth" already a matter for a grim "cabalistic" joke.

'By about eleven o'clock we were just off the entrance to Heart's Content, and the large paddle-box boats of the Terrible, which had on the previous occasion rendered such efficient service in landing the shore-end, were brought under the stern of the Great Eastern; the cable was cut and passed to the boats, and these soon conveyed the end to the Medway, on board which ship the shore-end was coiled.'

Towards the close of the year a regrettable accident occurred. On the 30th of December, flames burst forth from a paint-room, situated in the north-east end of the Crystal Palace, and seized the dry timber of the flooring. As it happened to be Sunday there were fewer persons than usual about the palace when the fire was discovered, and some time elapsed before a sufficient number could be collected to endeavour to extinguish the flames, which had taken hold of the dry woodwork forming the floor of the palace; and notwithstanding all the efforts that could be made by the employés of the palace, and by the members of the fire-brigade, who arrived as soon as possible, a large

portion of this beautiful national monument had been destroyed.

During the autumn and winter of this year, the reform agitation was industriously prosecuted. The example set by the metropolis was followed in the provinces, and a very active agitation carried on, having for its chief object to compel the ministers, in whose reforming intentions the mass of the people placed little confidence, to retire, and make way for another government, which would command the confidence of reformers. The most remarkable of these demonstrations was that held at Birmingham, on the 27th of August, attended by Messrs. Bright, Schofield, and Beales, and, as was stated in the journals of the period, by 250,000 persons; at Manchester another monster one was held, the number attending which was variously estimated at from 100,000 to 150,000; and lastly, one at St. James's Hall, London, at which, Mr. Ayrton having censured the Queen for not affording the people, gathered in large numbers in front of her window, some mark of recognition, her majesty was defended by Mr. Bright, who, referring to the words Mr. Ayrton had used, said: 'I am not accustomed to stand up in defence of those who are possessors of crowns; but I could not sit and hear that observation without a sensation of pain. I think there has been by many persons great injustice done to the Queen in reference to her desolate and widowed position; and I venture to say this, that a woman, be she the queen of a great realm, or be she the wife of one of your labouring men, who can keep alive in her heart a great sorrow for the lost object of her life and affection, is not at all wanting in a great and generous sympathy for you.' These remarks were received with tremendous cheering, which showed that zeal for reform was not mingled in the minds of those who attended the meeting, with any feeling of disaffection to the sovereign, or with any desire to subvert monarchical government; and the loyal feeling that animated the assembly was still farther manifested by its refusal to hear Mr. Ayrton, when he offered an explanation of the language he had employed.

The weather during the year was, on the whole, damp and chilly. The harvest, which commenced with the prospect of a good crop, was retarded and seriously damaged by heavy autumnal rains. Cholera, typhus, and other zymotic diseases made considerable ravages among the population of the kingdom, and especially that of the metropolis. The cattle-plague, which we have seen spreading so rapidly at the beginning of the year, continued to prevail during its earlier months; but gradually yielded to the vigorous measures which had been adopted to check its progress. The Fenian conspiracy, more injurious to individuals than formidable to the state, prosecuting its objects rather by secret assassination than by open war, had rendered necessary another suspension of the habeas-corpus act in Ireland, and was mainly noticeable as a symptom of the unhealthy condition of the body politic in Ireland, and the necessity of remedies for the evils of that country, more searching and more thorough than any that had hitherto been administered.

The year 1867 commenced amidst great pauperism, destitution, and consequent discontent in many parts of the kingdom, and especially in the eastern portion of its great metropolis. Even in prosperous times these districts of London are sunk in chronic poverty; but in periods of distress, such as they were now passing through, that poverty became absolute destitution. The monetary derangements which the Russell administration met with so much promptitude and decision, were not entirely removed for some time after the crisis had passed, and aggravated fearfully the wretchedness of this part of the metropolis. Thousands were unemployed; and the inclemency of an exceptionally severe winter, aggravated the misery caused by the commercial depression. The disputes between employers and employed; the reduction of wages, which was a natural and necessary consequence of the state of trade, leading to strikes on the one hand, and lock-outs on the other, intensified the suffering. It was computed that at least 30,000 of the inhabitants of this brick-and-mortar wilderness depended on public

and private charity for their subsistence. Many of those who were just above them were rapidly sinking to the same level, dragged down not only by the causes that had produced the poverty by which they were surrounded, but by the burden of rates, varying from four shillings and sixpence to six shillings and sixpence in the pound, which were indispensably requisite for the support of the pauper population. This state of things necessitated some changes in the poor-law. The great mass of starving labour which crowded these eastern districts was brought there to a great extent for the service of those who dwelt in the wealthier and happier quarters of the great city; and it was only reasonable that they who profited by their labour in times of prosperity, should contribute to their support in seasons of adversity.

Owing to divisions of opinion in the cabinet, the question of reform had been left in suspense by the government, but at the last moment Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli succeeded in persuading their colleagues to consent to the introduction of a measure dealing with that difficult question, and inspiring them with the hope that it might be so framed and so carried, as to strengthen instead of weakening the conservative party. They were no doubt right; for neither the nation nor the House of Commons would have consented to leave the question any longer in abeyance, and the ministry would not have retained office a single fortnight after the commencement of the session if it had declined to deal with it. But the difficulties they had to contend with were serious indeed; and most of all difficult was the position of Mr. Disraeli, as head of the government, in the House of Commons. The leader of a party that had all along dreaded and opposed any extension of the suffrage, regarded with jealousy and suspicion by many of those whose support was essential to the success of his enterprise, opposed by a large, though divided majority, hampered by declarations he had made against the numerous reform bills which the liberal party had brought forward—he was in a position which must neces-

sarily task to the utmost his dexterity both as a framer and as a conductor of the measure. However, he rose to the difficulty, with consummate ability. Two plans had been suggested: one of a bolder character, which was ultimately laid before the house; the other more moderate, which, in deference to the objections made to the former, was brought forward in the first instance.

The following passage in the royal speech, at the opening of the session, gave the first authoritative announcement that the ministry had decided to grapple with the question:

'Your attention will again be called to the state of the representation of the people in parliament; and I trust that your deliberations, conducted in a spirit of moderation and mutual forbearance, may lead to the adoption of measures which, without unduly disturbing the balance of political power, shall freely extend the elective franchise.'

The phrase 'the balance of political power' was one that was very frequently repeated by Mr. Disraeli in the earlier debates on the bill. It was vague, but not unmeaning. The idea it was intended to convey was, that the bill was not to impair the influence in the election of members, which the territorial aristocracy enjoyed; and therefore that if it did not strengthen the conservative party, it would not weaken it.

The ministry was profuse in promises of legislation. Its programme for the session included colonial consolidation, metropolitan water-works, investigation of the law of trades-unions, extension of the factory acts to other trades, improvement of the mercantile marine, of the navigation laws, of the pecuniary arrangements of embarrassed railways, of the treatment of the sick and distressed in the metropolis, of the relations between Irish landlords and tenants, the amendment of the law of bankruptcy, and the consolidation of the probate, divorce, and admiralty courts. It seemed that ministers were determined to show that they were not inferior in energy and activity to their predecessors.

They must also be commended for the promptitude with which they entered on the work of parliamentary reform. The session commenced on Tuesday the 5th of February; on the following Monday Mr. Disraeli made his statement of the manner in which he and his colleagues proposed to deal with the question. Often as the subject had been brought forward, there was still as much anxiety as ever to hear the ministerial explanation, the same uncomfortable crowding of all parts of the house, the same early attendance of members, the same eagerness to obtain places in the speaker's and strangers' galleries, the same affluence of peers and illustrious personages. Mr. Disraeli began his address by laying down, amidst the loud laughter of the opposition, that, in the opinion of the government, parliamentary reform should no longer be a question which ought to decide the fate of ministers. He based this opinion on the failure of all parties in the state to deal with the question. Successive governments, in 1852, 1854, 1858, 1859, 1860, and 1866, had brought in reform bills, and had not been able to carry them. He then went on to state that before 1832 the working classes had a certain power in the representation: they could return two members in Preston. In Coventry, and in many other boroughs they had considerable influence as freemen. In 1852 these rights were abolished; and he thought now, as he thought then, that the abolition of them was a grave error, which he proposed to rectify. He announced that he meant to proceed by way of resolution. Mr. Hunt gave notice of a bill on the subject of rating, which was intended to pave the way for the consideration of the government plan of reform.

The following were the resolutions on which that plan was to be based:

'This house having, in the last session of parliament, assented to the second reading of a bill entitled "A bill to extend the right of voting at elections of members of parliament in England and Wales," is of opinion:

'1. That the number of electors for counties and boroughs in England and Wales ought to be increased.

'2. That such increase may best be effected by both reducing the value of the qualifying tenement in counties and boroughs, and by adding other franchises not dependent on such value.

'3. That while it is desirable that a more direct representation should be given to the labouring class, it is contrary to the constitution of this realm to give to any one class or interest a predominating power over the rest of the community.

'4. That the occupation franchise in counties and boroughs shall be based on the principle of rating.

'5. That the principle of plurality of votes, if adopted by parliament, would facilitate the settlement of the borough franchise.

'6. That it is expedient to revise the existing distribution of seats.

'7. That in such revision it is not expedient that any borough now represented in parliament should be wholly disfranchised.

'8. That in revising the existing distribution of seats this house will acknowledge as its main consideration the expediency of supplying representation to places not at present represented, and which may be considered entitled to that privilege.

'9. That it is expedient that provision should be made for the better prevention of bribery and corruption at elections.

'10. That it is expedient that the system of registration of voters in counties should be assimilated as far as possible to that which prevails in boroughs.

'11. That it shall be open to every parliamentary elector, if he thinks fit, to record his vote by means of a polling-paper duly signed and authenticated.

'12. That provision be made for diminishing the distances which voters have to travel for the purpose of recording their votes, so that no expenditure for such purpose shall hereafter be legal.

'13. That a humble address be presented to her majesty, praying her majesty to issue a royal commission to form and submit to the consideration of parliament a scheme for new and enlarged boundaries of the existing parliamentary boroughs where the population extends beyond the limits now assigned for such boroughs; and to fix subject to the decision of parliament, the boundaries of such other boroughs as parliament may deem fit to be represented in this house.'

While these resolutions were being submitted to the House of Commons, a meeting of working men's trades-unions was being held at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, and at which 20,000 persons were computed to have been present. Mr. Disraeli's resolutions were read to them by Mr. P. A. Taylor, who also informed them of the purport of the minister's statement. After the meeting had received this information, the following resolutions were submitted, and adopted:

'1. That this meeting consider it their duty to distinctly declare that no measure for the improvement of the representation of the people in parliament will be satisfactory which is not based upon the principle of the people themselves being directly and personally represented, instead of such representation being virtual and sectional; and that such direct and real representation can only be effected by means of residential and registered manhood suffrage, protected in its free and honest exercise by the ballot.

'2. That this meeting desires most earnestly to press on the liberal members of the House of Commons the absolute necessity, as they regard the peace and welfare of the country, of not consenting to any measure of reform designed to evade the full and just rights of the people to be directly represented in their own branch of the legislature.

'3. That in the opinion of this meeting the statements made in the House of Commons this evening on the subject of reform in the representation of the people in parliament are eminently unsatisfactory, and complete the proof of the present government being unworthy of the confidence of the country.'

Thus the two schemes of reform—the conservative scheme and the radical scheme—were placed face to face with each other; and the latter had at least the advantage of being clear, definite, and intelligible, based on plain principles and making a fearless and consistent application of them. The programme of each of the two extreme parties was put before the country, and it remained to be seen which of the two would prevail, or whether some middle course would be adopted.

When the 25th of February, the day appointed for the consideration of them, arrived, the house was once more filled by a densely-packed and earnest crowd of members and spectators. A bill founded on them and so hastily framed that it was jocosely named 'the ten-minutes bill,' was brought forward, only to be withdrawn the following day; when Mr. Disraeli announced that he would bring in a new bill on the subject. Mr. Gladstone expressed a hope that the bill would be such that all differences about it might be settled in committee. But before the arrival of the day fixed for its introduction, it appeared that the differences of opinion which existed in the cabinet on the reform question had caused the resignation of three of its most important members. As the premier himself related the circumstances under which these resignations had been made, we cannot do better than give his statement in a somewhat abbreviated form:

'When I took office,' he said, 'I did so practically unpledged on the subject of reform. An agreement, however, was soon come to between my colleagues and myself, that it was impossible altogether to ignore that question; but we felt that the only mode of bringing it to a successful issue was to invite the House of Commons to consider what compromise would be acceptable to all parties; and with that view it was determined to proceed by resolutions. Unfortunately the House of Commons did not think fit to adopt that mode of proceeding, and the government was consequently deprived of a great advantage, being unable to collect the general feeling and desire of the house on the

main points. Two schemes were originally brought under the consideration of the government, and both differed as to the amount and extent of the franchise. The more extensive of the two schemes was that to which the resolutions had originally pointed, and more especially the fifth, under which would have been introduced the system of plurality of votes, which might allow us to extend the franchise lower than we otherwise would. One distinguished member of the cabinet entertained strong objections to the course pursued, but in order to secure unanimity waived those objections. I then hoped that the larger and more comprehensive scheme would have been fixed on; but, to my surprise and regret, I found that two of my most valued colleagues, on reconsideration, disapproved of the scheme, and felt compelled to withdraw the assent they had given to it. Of course I at once relieved the third colleague from the assent he had given; and it then became necessary for the government to consider what course they would adopt. Ultimately we determined to submit to the House of Commons a measure which we did not consider thoroughly satisfactory, but which we hoped might for a time settle the question. But it very shortly became obvious that on neither side of the house would the proposition of the government meet with a concurrence; and therefore it became necessary last week to consider whether we should adhere to our second proposition, or revert to the first. We resolved on taking the latter course. Our scheme will in a short time be laid before the other house of parliament; and I trust that before the expiration of the present week I shall be able to supply the place of the colleagues I have had the misfortune to lose.'

These colleagues were the Earl of Carnarvon, Viscount Cranbourne, now Earl of Salisbury, and General Peel. A statement, somewhat similar to that made by the Earl of Derby to the peers, was made by Mr. Disraeli to the commons. At the same time he announced that he proposed to introduce his reform bill on the 18th of March; and suggested that it should

be read a second time on Monday the 23rd; and that if it were then accepted by the house, they could go into committee as soon as was consistent with the transaction of public business; and he should prefer, on the part of the government, that the house should sit in committee on the bill *de die in diem.*

Mr. Gladstone, in the course of some remarks he made in following Mr. Disraeli, expressed a hope that the reform measure, when it appeared, would be of a simple, straightforward, and intelligible character; that though it must be new, it should not be 'new-fangled.' He said that the people of this country were attached to simplicity of procedure. Above all, he trusted that the contemplated measure would not contain two sets of provisions; one of them framed to have the semblance of giving, and the other to have the reality of taking away. He added, that if ministers, avoiding these changes, would submit a plan that promised to effect good in a way that was simple, straightforward, intelligible, and constitutional in its character, he ventured to promise that it would be received on his side of the house in no grudging spirit, with no recollection of the past, and no revival of mutual suspicions and complaints. These were wise counsels and generous overtures; and it would have been well for the government if it could have embraced them. But Mr. Disraeli now found himself in the position in which Sir Robert Peel had formerly been, having to deal with a section of his party which was determined not to accept changes which had become inevitable and indispensable; and he was obliged to tax his ingenuity to the utmost to produce a measure which would give a considerable extension of the franchise without causing too much alarm to this portion of his followers.

The measure which had already divided the conservative councils, and caused so important a secession from the ministry, was brought forward by Mr. Disraeli on the 18th of March. Although so many bills on the subject had already been submitted to the House of Commons, there was no abatement of

the interest with which the question was regarded either by the members of the legislature or by the public. The house was as densely packed in all its parts as it had ever been, and there was as great a desire manifested to obtain places in the gallery as on any previous occasion of the same kind. The plan propounded by the chancellor of the exchequer was certainly bold, and perhaps the best which, considering on the one hand the demands of the country, and on the other hand the principles, the sentiments, and the interests of his own followers, it was possible for him to bring forward.

The franchise in boroughs was conferred on every man of full age, and not subject to any legal incapacity, who for the whole of the preceding two years had been the inhabitant occupier, whether as owner or tenant, of any dwelling-house within the borough, and had during the time of his occupation of it been rated to all rates (if any) made for the relief of the poor in respect of these premises, and had before the 20th of July paid all rates due up to the preceding 5th day of January.

The franchise in counties was to be conferred on every man of full age, and not subject to any legal incapacity, who on the last day of July in any year, and during the preceding twelve months, had been the occupier as owner or tenant of premises of any tenure within the county of the rateable value of fifteen pounds or upwards, and had during the time of his occupation been rated to all rates made for the relief of the poor, and had paid before the 20th of July all rates due by him on that property since the preceding 5th of January.

But, in addition to the franchises thus made to depend on the ownership or occupation of property, it was also proposed that there should be

An educational franchise, to be conferred on all graduates or associates in arts of any university of the united kingdom; on any male person who has passed at any senior middle-class examination of any university of the united kingdom; on any ordained priest or deacon of the church of England, or minister

of any other denomination; on barristers, pleaders, attorneys, medical men, and certificated schoolmasters.

A pecuniary franchise to belong to every man who on the 1st of July in any year, and during the two years immediately preceding, has had a balance of not less than fifty pounds deposited in a savings-bank, or in the Bank of England, or in any parliamentary stocks or funds, or has during the twelve months immediately preceding the 5th of April in any year been charged with and paid twenty shillings for assessed taxes and income-tax.

Another clause of the bill, which was perhaps its most novel feature, provided that a person registered as a voter for a borough by reason of his having been charged with and paid the requisite amount of assessed taxes and income-tax, or either of such taxes, shall not by reason of being so registered lose any right to which he may be entitled (if otherwise duly qualified) to be registered as a voter for the same borough in respect of any franchise involving occupation of premises and payment of rates, and when registered in respect of such double qualification, he should be entitled to give two votes for the member (or, if there be more than one, for each member) to be returned to serve in parliament for the borough.

The provisions for the redistribution of seats were, that Totness, Reigate, Great Yarmouth, and Lancaster should cease to return any member; that Honiton, Thetford, Wells, Evesham, Marlborough, Norwich, Richmond, Lymington, Knaresborough, Andover, Leominster, Tewkesbury, Ludlow, Ripon, Huntingdon, Maldon, Cirencester, Bodmin, Great Marlow, Devizes, Hertford, Dorchester, and Lichfield, should henceforward only return one; that Tower Hamlets should be divided into two boroughs, each returning two members; that the following counties, or divisions of counties, should be divided into two parts, each returning two members to parliament: South Devon, West Kent, North Lancashire, South Lancashire, Lincoln (parts of Lindsay), Middlesex, South Staffordshire, and

East Surrey; that Torquay, Darlington, Hartlepool, Gravesend, St. Helen's, Burnley, Staleybridge, Wednesbury, Croydon, Middlesborough, Dewsbury, Burslem, and the University of London, should each return one member to parliament.

This bill was based on the principle embodied in Lord Dunkellin's motion.* Thus, instead of drawing a 5*l.*, 6*l.*, or 7*l.* line to cut off what was called the residuum, that is to say, the class whose extreme poverty rendered them most liable to be bribed or improperly influenced, the government boldly adopted household suffrage, with the qualification of the payment of rates; thus excluding from the franchise compound householders, who did not pay their rates personally, and those whose rates, under various acts, were compounded for by their landlords, and all lodgers. Mr. Disraeli calculated that his bill would admit 237,000 additional voters, but would leave 486,000 still excluded from the borough franchise, and that the result of his whole plan would be that one quarter of the voting power would belong to the aristocracy, another quarter to the working classes, and the remaining half to the middle classes. Such was his proposed 'balance of political power.' It was, however, afterwards shown that his household suffrage, specious as it was, would really have enfranchised a smaller number of borough voters than the bill of 1866.

Mr. Disraeli's exposition of the ministerial measure was followed by a discussion in which many of its features were strongly assailed by speakers on both sides of the house, and especially that part of it which conferred the dual vote, which was almost universally condemned, and to which Mr. Gladstone in particular proclaimed implacable hostility.

In the interval between the first and second reading a deputation representing the Reform League waited on Mr. Disraeli and supported the views embodied in the resolutions we have already cited. If this interview did not bring about an agreement of opinion, it at least promoted a kindlier feeling. Mr.

See p. 319.

Disraeli dealt very frankly with his visitors. He told them that they were men of 'extreme views;' and the observation was received with a good-humoured laugh. He reminded them that there were others who also entertained extreme opinions of an opposite kind, and that as the framer of the reform bill he was bound to consider both extremes. Some members of the deputation rather warmly dissented from this statement, and were called to order by their more reasonable companions, who felt that Mr. Disraeli ought to be listened to with the same patience and courtesy that he had displayed in hearing the opinions of members of the deputation who had uttered sentiments from which he doubtless differed very strongly. Standing almost alone among a crowd of opponents, he discussed the question with spirit and frankness, and sent them away in good temper, and with a promise that their statements should receive the best attention of the government.

When the question of the second reading was brought forward, Mr. Gladstone, who had conferred with a meeting of his parliamentary followers at his own house, consented, against his own opinion, but in deference to the views and wishes of a large portion of them, and to avoid disunion in the liberal camp, to allow that stage of the bill to pass without a division. But he expressed the strongest disapproval of it as a whole, and enumerated the following features in it which he regarded as peculiarly objectionable:

1. Omission of the lodger franchise.
2. Omission of provisions against traffic in votes of householders of the lowest class by corrupt payment of the rates.
3. Disqualifications of compound householders under the existing law.
4. Additional disqualifications of compound householders under the proposed law.
5. The franchise founded on direct taxation.
6. The dual vote.
7. The inadequate redistribution of seats.

8. The inadequate reduction of the franchise in counties.
9. Voting-papers.
10. Collateral or special franchises.

The dual vote, almost universally condemned, was withdrawn. After a good deal of party manœuvring, which excited intense feeling at the time, but the interest of which is now gone dead, the government succeeded in getting their bill into committee; and the formal clauses, containing the title, and excluding from its operation Ireland, Scotland, and the two universities, were passed.

We now come to a curious episode in the history of the conservative reform bill, which shows the inconveniences that attend the system of government by party, and to a certain extent counterbalance the advantages which it indisputably possesses. On the 5th of April about 140 members of the liberal party met at Mr. Gladstone's residence to determine on the course which the party, under the circumstances in which they were placed, should adopt with regard to the government bill. It was decided at this meeting that Mr. Coleridge should propose the following resolution before the house went into committee on the reform bill: 'That it be an instruction to the committee that they have power to alter the law of rating, and to provide that in every parliamentary borough the occupiers of tenements below a given rateable value be relieved from liability to personal rating, with a view to fix a line for the borough franchise at which all occupiers shall be entered on the rate-book, and shall have equal facilities for the enjoyment of such franchise as a residential franchise.' Much discussion took place with regard to this proposal, and some difference of opinion was expressed; but it was understood to be decided that the motion should be brought forward on the 8th of April, the day on which the house was to go into committee on the bill. However, on that very evening a meeting, consisting of between forty and fifty members of the liberal party, was held in the tea-room of the House of Commons. At this meeting it

was agreed that the persons composing it should unite for the purpose of limiting the instructions to be proposed by Mr. Coleridge to the first clause of his resolution, which applied to the law of rating. They then appointed a deputation to Mr. Gladstone to convey to him the feeling of the meeting, and to assure him that the members composing it would continue to give him a loyal support in committee. Mr. Gladstone, finding that by the defection of so many of his supporters he was almost certain to incur a defeat, yielded to their demands, and the resolution was altered accordingly. Mr. Disraeli accepted the altered resolution, and the house then went into committee on the bill. Thereupon Mr. Gladstone gave notice of several important amendments, which Mr. Disraeli declared to be the relinquished instructions in another form, and distinctly announced that if they should be carried, the government would not proceed with the bill. As most of the members who composed the meeting at the tea-room still held together, forming a party known as the tea-room party, government triumphed by a majority of twenty-one in the division on the first of Mr. Gladstone's resolutions. After this he could not hope to carry his remaining resolutions; he therefore announced his intentions in the following letter to Mr. Crawford, one of the members for the City, who had asked him whether he intended to persevere in moving the amendments of which he had given notice. 'The country can hardly now fail to be aware that those gentlemen of the liberal party whose convictions allow them to act unitedly on the question are not a majority, but a minority, in the existing House of Commons; and they have not the power they were supposed to possess of limiting or directing the action of the administration, or shaping the provisions of the reform bill. Still, having regard to the support which my proposal with respect to personal rating secured from so large a number of liberal members, I am not less willing than heretofore to remain at the service of the party to which they belong; and when any suitable occasion shall

arise, if it shall be their wish, I shall be prepared again to attempt concerted action upon this or any other subject for the public good. But until then, desirous to avoid misleading the country and our friends, I feel that prudence requires me to withdraw from my attempts to assume the initiative in amending a measure which cannot perhaps be effectually amended except by a reversal, formal or virtual, of the vote of Friday the 11th; for such attempts, if made by me, would, I believe, at the present critical moment, not be the most likely means of advancing their own purpose. Accordingly I shall not proceed with the amendments now on the paper in my name, nor give notice of other amendments such as I had contemplated; but I shall gladly accompany others in voting against any attempt, from whatever quarter, to limit yet further the scanty modicum of enfranchisement proposed by the government, or in improving, where it may be practicable, the provisions of the bill.'

Mr. Bright took the opportunity of a great reform demonstration at Birmingham to denounce the conduct by which the liberal party was for the moment reduced to this impotent condition. Eulogising Mr. Gladstone, as having imported into this question of reform more conviction, earnestness, and zeal than any statesman since 1832, he asked: 'Who is there in the House of Commons who equals him in knowledge of all political questions? Who equals him in earnestness? Who equals him in eloquence? Who equals him in courage and fidelity to his convictions? If these gentlemen who say they will not follow him have any one who is equal, let them show him. If they can point out any statesman who can add dignity and grandeur to the stature of Mr. Gladstone, let them produce him. It is a deplorable thing that last year a small section of forty men, or thereabouts, of professing liberals, destroyed the honest and acceptable (I speak of the people) bill of the late government, and with it also destroyed the government that proposed it. About an equal number have this year to a great extent destroyed the power of the opposition, and may assist an anti-

reforming government to pass a very bad measure on the greatest question of our time; and having done all the mischief which they could, they begin to write silly letters to their constituents. What can be done in parliamentary parties if every man is to pursue his own little game? A costermonger and donkey would take a week to travel from here to London; and yet, by running athwart the London and North-Western line, they might bring to total destruction a great express train; and so, very small men, who during their whole political lives have not advanced the question of reform by one hair's-breadth or by one moment of time, can in a critical hour like this throw themselves athwart the objects of a great party, and mar, it may be, a great measure that sought to affect the interests of the country beneficially for all time.'

Few speeches that have ever been made have told with greater effect than this address. The downright truth and justice of Mr. Bright's censures carried with them a weight that made them to be felt by men who, professing to desire a real extension of the franchise, were yet adopting a course which was nullifying that object, and were placing at the disposal of the minority of the house a power which ought to be exercised by the majority. When we consider the manner in which this question had been dealt with over and over again, we are forced to the conclusion, that many of those who had obtained their seats in the House of Commons by professing zeal for reform were in reality its worst enemies, and were secretly using all their influence to prevent the enactment of a really efficient measure.

We must now return from this digression to follow the fortunes of the representation bill on its way through committee. The discussion of Mr. Gladstone's first resolution showed that a very great confusion of opinion existed in the ranks both of the ministerialists and of their opponents; for while Sir William Heathcote, Lord Cranbourne, and Mr. Beresford Hope, all stanch conservatives, strongly assailed the government and denounced

its bill, that bill was supported by Mr. Roebuck and several advanced radicals, who hoped, and, as the result showed, not without reason, that they would be able to transform it into such a measure as they desired.

After the rejection of Mr. Gladstone's first resolution, the house adjourned for the Easter vacation; the supporters of the government being full of exultation on account of their unexpected victory. It now seemed probable that ministers would succeed in carrying their bill, though it was confidently expected that it would be modified in many of its provisions by the liberal majority. Nor was this expectation disappointed. Never was a measure so completely turned inside-out and upside-down. All the ten changes which Mr. Gladstone had pointed out as necessary to make it a good measure—but which no one ever expected that his party would carry, or the government accept—were adopted, with the single exception of the second, perhaps the least important of them all; and this too was subsequently effected with scarcely a show of opposition. The 'conservative surrender,' as it was termed, was as complete as Mr. Bright could have desired. 'A clear majority of votes,' said an able writer in the *Quarterly Review*, 'in a clear majority of constituencies, has been made over to those who have no other property than the labour of their hands. The omnipotence of parliament is theirs.'

We should exhaust both the space at our disposal and the patience of the reader were we to attempt to follow out the various vicissitudes of the long struggle by which this result was obtained. Some of the changes, however, that were effected—either from their magnitude, or from the circumstances under which they were made—demand a brief notice.

On the 17th of May, Mr. Hodgkinson, member for Newark, proposed to add to the third clause of the bill the following words, which would have the effect of abolishing the system of compounding for rates in parliamentary boroughs: 'That no person other than the occupier shall be rated to parochial rates

in respect of premises occupied by him within the limits of a parliamentary borough, all acts to the contrary notwithstanding.' The system which this motion was designed to destroy had all along been regarded and represented as one of the great conservative safeguards of the bill. The government, as was well known, had secured a majority. Mr. Gladstone, aware of this, came into the house expecting, as a matter of course, that the motion would be rejected; Mr. Disraeli's own colleagues entertained the same expectation; when, to the astonishment probably of every one present, Mr. Disraeli, acting entirely on his own responsibility, accepted the amendment—which had the effect of nearly quadrupling the number of electors on whom the franchise would be conferred—and afterwards persuaded his colleagues that the adoption of this proposition was an improvement of the measure. When the committee again met, Mr. Ayrton moved a resolution reducing the period of residence required for the franchise from two years to one. The motion was resisted by the government, but on a division was carried by 278 to 197. Mr. Disraeli at once announced that he could not proceed with the bill without consultation with his colleagues; and another ministerial crisis seemed to be impending; but on the following night he announced that the government had decided to bow to the decision of the house, and persevere with their measure.

While these discussions were being carried on in the House of Commons, the government had placed itself in a somewhat ridiculous position out of doors. The council of the Reform League determined to hold a meeting in Hyde-park. Mr. Walpole, the home secretary, with the concurrence of his colleagues issued a notice forbidding it, and warning all well-disposed persons to keep away from it. It was discovered, however, that the government had no legal right to prevent the meeting from being held, and that all it could do was to prosecute for trespass those who took part in it. The council of the League therefore persisted in their resolution; and the meeting, or rather meet-

ings, for there were several of them, were watched by a large array of soldiers and police, and passed off very quietly. The government, however, brought in a bill intended to give them the power of dealing more effectively with such meetings, to which, in the interest of the public, it was clearly desirable that some limits should be put. Mr. Walpole, broken in health by the labours of his office, and the mortifications which these occurrences caused, withdrew from the ministry, to the regret of all parties in the house, with whom his amiable disposition and courteous bearing had made him a favourite. He was succeeded by Mr. Gathorne Hardy, a man of greater firmness and resolution.

Meanwhile the government Reform Bill was being carried steadily forward, the liberal leaders now hoping to make it all that they had desired; and the government, conceding a ten-pound lodger franchise, abandoning the fancy franchises, reducing the county qualification from 15*l.* to 10*l.*, raising the standard of semi-disfranchisement from 7,000 to 10,000, and consequently the number of boroughs condemned to lose one of their representatives to forty-six. They proposed to distribute the seats thus placed at their disposal, in the following manner: two to Hackney; two to Chelsea, with Kensington; one each to twelve boroughs, which up to this time had not been represented. They also proposed to give an additional member to each of the following counties or county divisions—West Kent, North Lancashire, and East Surrey; to divide South Lancashire into two, and Lincolnshire, Derbyshire, Devonshire, Somersetshire, the West Riding of Yorkshire, Cheshire, Norfolk, Staffordshire, and Essex, into three electoral districts, each of them to be represented by two members. It was also proposed that the Universities of London and Durham should be combined for the purpose of returning a joint representative, instead of the member being given to London University alone, as had originally been intended.

Mr. Disraeli, in announcing this large modification of his

original plan, stated that it had been framed for the purpose of counterbalancing some of the more democratic elements that had been introduced into the bill, and that the government would not recede from it. And the house, anxious to complete the work to which so much time had been devoted—anxious, above all, to avoid being sent back to their constituents before they had accomplished it—rejected by a majority of eight a motion brought forward by Mr. Laing, and supported by Mr. Gladstone, for giving three members each to the following towns, each of which had a population of upwards of 150,000: Bristol, Birmingham, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, and Sheffield. Mr. Disraeli was not, however, equally successful in his attempt to amalgamate the high-church university of Durham with the liberal and freethinking university of London; but quietly submitted to the decision of the house, after two divisions, in one of which the word 'university' was substituted for 'universities,' and in the other the motion to add the word 'Durham' was rejected. The proposal made by the minister for extending to the counties the privilege of voting by papers, which had already been granted to the universities, was also rejected.

Mr. Horsfall, one of the representatives for Liverpool, having brought forward a motion for giving a third member each to Manchester, Liverpool, and Birmingham, the proposal was opposed in the first instance by the government, but was at length conceded by Mr. Disraeli, who at the same time added Leeds to the list of towns to which a third member was to be given. This concession increased the hostility with which the ministry and their measure were regarded by Lord Cranbourne, and those that thought with him, who now sat below the gangway, on the ministerial side of the house, and led General Peel to say that henceforth he should conclude that there was 'nothing with less vitality than a vital point, nothing so insecure as the securities that the bill offered, and nothing so elastic as the conscience of a cabinet minister.' And certainly he and his friends had good reason to complain when they saw the so-called

securities swept away one after another, and the bill introduced by the conservative ministry transformed, with their consent, into a measure which Mr. Bright himself might have introduced, and which, if it did not altogether satisfy the wishes of the members of the Reform League, certainly far surpassed their expectations. The House of Commons, thoroughly weary of their work, and finding themselves now in the month of July, hurried through the later clauses of the bill, tossed overboard without consideration, amendments of all kinds, loudly called for the schedules, rapidly passed them; and so at last the bill, after having been thirteen weeks in committee, came before the house for the third reading. Mr. Disraeli was then compelled to listen to taunts and sarcasms as severe as those which he had heaped on Sir Robert Peel, and complaints of betrayal from the conservative party as bitter as those he had himself uttered against the illustrious statesman who led that party, when he was an obscure member of it. Lord Cranbourne said, 'I should deeply regret to find that the House of Commons has applauded a policy of legerdemain; and I should above all things regret that this great gift to the people, if gift you think it, should have been purchased at the cost of a political betrayal which has no parallel in our parliamentary annals, which strikes at the root of all mutual confidence, which is the very soul of our party government, and on which only the strength and freedom of our representative institutions can be sustained.' The language of Mr. Lowe was, if possible, still more caustic. 'If I was not deceived,' he said, 'I must have been a prophet—a character to which I have no claims; for how was it possible that I, who was daily in confidential communication with the honourable gentlemen opposite, when they held widely different opinions, could ever have believed that, after their declarations last year, and after condescending to accept from us help they could not have done without, they would have done what they have done? Was it in human foresight to have imagined such a thing? Let us look a little farther. Was it to be conceived that right hon-

ourable gentlemen, who had given no indications of the extreme facility of changing their opinions, and lending themselves to the arts of treachery, would, for the sake of keeping a few of them in office for a short time, and giving some small patronage to half-a-dozen lawyers, have been prepared to sacrifice all the principles, all the convictions, and all the traditions of their lives?' Mr. Disraeli was not a man to let these invectives pass unchallenged. 'If,' said he, 'we from the bottom of our hearts believe that the measure which we are now requesting you to pass is not, on the whole, the wisest and best that could be passed under the circumstances, I would even admit that our conduct was infamous. But I want to know what the right honourable gentleman thinks of his own conduct, when, having assisted in turning out the government of Lord Derby, in 1859, because they would not reduce the borough franchise, he, if I am not much mistaken, having been one of the active managers in that intrigue, accepted office, in 1860, under the government of Lord Palmerston, who brought forward a measure of parliamentary reform, which he disapproved, and more than disapproved, because he invited his political opponents to defeat it? And yet the right honourable gentleman talks to us of infamy. Sir, the prognostications of evil uttered by the noble Lord (Cranbourne) I can respect, because I know they are sincere; the warnings and the prophecies of the right honourable gentleman I treat in another spirit,' &c. The house, however, was little disposed to trouble itself about the vehement denunciations of Lord Cranbourne, the predictions and lamentations of Mr. Lowe, or the apologies of the chancellor of the exchequer. The dominant feeling was impatience to have done with the measure which had occupied so large a share of attention, and caused so much anxiety during two successive sessions. When, therefore, the speaker put the question, that this bill be now read a third time, there was a loud and general shout of 'Ay!' One solitary voice from below the gangway, on the ministerial side of the house, cried 'No!' And the further question being put, that the bill

do pass, it was carried amid loud cheering from all parts of the house. On the following day the measure was introduced into the House of Lords, and read a first time. The question of the second reading was brought forward on Monday, July 21st, when, after a debate extending over two evenings, an amendment moved by Earl Grey, was negatived, and the bill read a second time without a division. The lords, however, showed that they were resolved not merely to register the bill sent up to them by the commons, but to give its details a full, if not altogether unfettered consideration. Unfortunately Lord Derby was seized with illness at this critical moment, and obliged to leave the conduct of the measure in the hands of Lord Malmesbury. During his absence Lord Cairns proposed and carried two important amendments, one of which raised the lodger franchise from 10*l.* to 15*l.*; and the other enacted that in any contested election in which three members were to be chosen, no elector should be allowed to vote for more than two. This 'cumulative vote,' as it was called, had already been supported in the House of Commons by a large minority. On the 6th of August Lord Derby again made his appearance in the house, in spite of the strong advice of his medical attendants. His pale and haggard countenance, and his arm in a sling, showed that he was yet suffering; but, ill as he was, he was still the first man in the house. He met an amendment moved by Earl Grey, by declaring that its probable effect, if carried, would be to cause the loss of the bill; and thus procured its defeat, though by a narrow majority. He also obtained a reversal of the decision to which the house had come, during his absence, with regard to the lodger franchise. Then came the passing of the bill. The last remarks made on it by Earl Russell were listened to with the attention and respect that his character and antecedents secured for him. He must have been somewhat mortified to see a measure for which he had all along laboured so zealously, and to which he claimed a peculiar right, taken out of his hands, by a rival who had been for a long time the foremost opponent of all his schemes of

reform. Still, whatever disappointment he may have felt on this score, he did not display it. He said that he thought the bill ought to be passed, and he hoped that it would settle the question for some time to come. He predicted that it would cause more corruption, bribery, and treating than ever, because the franchise was extended by it to a great number of ignorant persons, without any settled political opinion, and open to temptations; but he did not believe that this would produce any serious mischief, because vital points depended on the temper of the people. He expressed an opinion that the re-distribution part of the scheme had not been carried far enough; and he strongly censured Lord Derby's declaration that he had introduced such a bill for the sake of his party; a course which he denounced as incompatible with a belief in the sincerity of those who adopted it. Such tactics had never been heard of before, and he hoped that they would never be heard of again. Lord Derby closed the debates on the measure by thanking the peers for the temper and candour with which they had treated the bill. He acknowledged that it was a great experiment, and that they had taken a leap in the dark; but expressed confidence in the sound sense of his countrymen.

The same evening it was carried down to the House of Commons, and presented there precisely at seven o'clock. The following Thursday was fixed for the consideration of the lords' amendments; and from all parts of the kingdom members flocked up to London, and the benches on both sides of the house were again crowded. There were only three of the lords' amendments on which a struggle took place. The first proposed to enact that the electors in large constituencies which were to send three members to parliament should have only two votes, thus providing for the representation of minorities; it was maintained by a majority of 49. The next restricted the number of votes of the electors of the city of London to three; it was carried by a majority of 64. The third authorised the using of voting-papers; it was rejected by a majority

of 52. The upper house acquiesced; and so the bill was at last finally adopted, and received the royal assent.

This act was in fact the work of the session. The budget was brought forward, and passed almost without notice; the chancellor of the exchequer explained it to a large audience. His statement was brief, and was listened to with respectful attention; but his plans excited little enthusiasm, and encountered no opposition. With the passing of the reform bill the interest of the session expired. The only feeling that existed in the legislature was a desire to finish as rapidly as possible the work that remained to be done, in order that parliament might be prorogued without delay.

The war against the king of Abyssinia in consequence of his obstinate detention of several Englishmen, some of whom were accredited to him by our government, rendered necessary an autumn session. There was a general feeling that it could not be avoided. All intention of making conquests was distinctly disavowed, and parliament had only to vote the means necessary to defray the expenses of the operations, which the climate of Abyssinia would probably cause to be very great. They were provided for by the grant of an additional penny on the income tax and by the balances in the exchequer. As Mr. Disraeli was suffering from illness and a domestic bereavement, the opposition exercised a degree of forbearance that was highly creditable. In the prosecution of the war all that could be done was to trust to the bravery of our troops and the skill and intelligence of their officers. The necessary measures having been discussed and adopted, the autumnal session was brought to a close.

In the course of this year some very serious disturbances were created by an itinerant lecturer named Murphy. He went about denouncing the Romish priesthood and the confessional in the coarsest terms, and in a manner that seemed to be expressly designed to rouse the indignation of the lower classes of the Irish Roman Catholics. But whatever may have

been the motives of the lecturer, his lectures certainly had the effect which they were calculated to produce. This effect was aggravated by a work entitled *The Confessional Unmasked*, and which contained the substance of the lectures. In this work Murphy endeavoured to show that the tendency of the system of confession as practised by the Roman Catholic priesthood was highly immoral; and in support of these views he published and distributed by thousands and tens of thousands certain extracts from works intended for the guidance of the Roman Catholic priests in dealing with persons who came to make their confessions to them. It was evident that if the tendency of these works was as mischievous as he represented them to be if whispered in the closets of the confessional, they must be much more widely pernicious if proclaimed from the house-tops; and that if these documents were calculated to suggest evil thoughts when used for the guidance of men of education, they must do far more mischief when they were thrown broadcast, as they were by Mr. Murphy, to women and young children. The pamphlet was ultimately seized under Lord Campbell's act for suppressing indecent publications, and many thousand copies of it were destroyed. But this did not prevent Mr. Murphy from labouring in his mischievous vocation; and, unfortunately for the public tranquillity, the lower orders of the Roman Catholics fell into the snare laid for them; and instead of resolutely treating the lecturer with contempt, and leaving him to harangue empty benches, they made him notorious by their violent and tumultuous conduct, and thus drew large audiences to listen to his trashy lectures. In this way riots were caused at Wolverhampton, Wednesbury, and other places which he visited. At Birmingham the mayor, finding that disturbances had arisen wherever he appeared, refused to allow him the use of the townhall. Murphy and his friends, however, were not to be thus baffled. They erected a large wooden building, in which the Protestant lecturer, as he termed himself, delivered his tirades. The low Irish, after

their manner, violently resented the foul abuse poured forth by the lecturer on a religion and a priesthood to which they were warmly attached. The Orange partisans of Murphy rallied round him in still larger numbers than their opponents. A fight ensued, many persons on both sides were seriously injured, and for two or three days Birmingham was kept in a state which could only be paralleled by the Lord George Gordon disturbances in London during the last century. The military was called out, the riot-act read, and very serious mischief was done. The only gainer by these disturbances was Murphy himself, whom they made more notorious than ever, and who received from all quarters invitations to repeat his lectures, and encouragement to persevere in his mischievous career. He went on his way, reviving the old no-popery feeling which had so long lain dormant, and creating riots in almost every town where large numbers of Irishmen resided, till at last he became a victim, and, as his friends regarded him, a martyr, to the fury which he had succeeded in exciting.

The wonderful effect which his lectures produced was not wholly due to the fanaticism either of his supporters or his opponents. There was another and a more disgraceful motive at the bottom of his success. The attempts he made to stir the dying embers of Orange fanaticism would have been utterly ineffectual, but for the strong trades-union feeling that existed against the Irish because they were ready to work for less than the English, and their presence in our manufacturing towns had the effect of keeping down the rate of wages. Another cause of the extraordinary sensation that Murphy succeeded in creating is to be found in the indignation which was awakened among all classes of Englishmen by disturbances of a very different character which had been raised by the Fenian organisation to which we have already referred, the members of which incapable indeed of encountering a single regiment in the open field, but capable of inflicting very serious injury on persons and properties, were still pursuing their course of mischievous

agitation with a reckless disregard of the wrong they inflicted. Some of the members of this secret confederacy had formed the design of seizing Chester Castle, and obtaining possession of the arms stored in it: and they were only prevented from making this audacious attempt by finding that their designs had been communicated to the authorities of the town, and that measures had been taken to defend it. At Manchester two men named Kelly and Deasy, after a severe struggle, were apprehended by the police, and found to be armed with loaded revolvers. They were recognised by the chief constable of Liverpool as being two officers of the so-called Fenian army. On the 18th of September they were brought before the stipendiary magistrate at Manchester, by whom the case was remanded for farther examination. They were then ironed and placed in the prison-van to be conducted to the borough gaol on the Hyde-road. Just as the van had passed under the bridge of the London and North-Western Railway a considerable number of men fired on the *cortége* and killed one of the horses. They then rushed out, and one of the assailants shot Sergeant Brett, a policeman, who was in the van and refused to deliver the keys of it to the attacking party. They then broke open the door and liberated the prisoners it contained. Kelly and Deasy at once made their way off, and found a place of concealment. A man named Allen, said to be the person who fired the shot by which Brett was killed, was pursued and apprehended, as were also about twenty other men who were supposed to have taken part in the rescue of the prisoners. This attack, made in the open day, in the neighbourhood of one of the largest cities of the empire, produced a profound sensation throughout the country. Rewards were offered for the recapture of Kelly and Deasy; the soldiers stationed at Manchester had orders to keep within their barracks and to be ready to act at a moment's notice; the city police were armed; the prisoners were escorted to the gaol by a large body of cavalry and an omnibus filled with infantry prepared to act at a moment's notice; the mayor of the city and

several other magistrates followed in carriages, to be ready to give orders in case any attempt at rescue should be made; and a strong detachment of infantry guarded the gaol. Other persons who were suspected of having taken part in the rescue, were subsequently arrested. A special commission was issued for the trial of the prisoners, and Justices Blackburn and Mellor, the judges appointed under it, at once set out for Manchester. After some delay the trials of the persons accused of being more immediately concerned in the murder of Brett were proceeded with; and the jury, after deliberating for two hours, pronounced them guilty. Judge Mellor, in passing sentence, said that no one who had been present during the trial could doubt the justice of the verdict, and added that he should be deceiving the prisoners if he were to hold out to them any expectation that mercy would be shown to them. Three of them, Allen, Larkin, and Gould, were executed. Great efforts had been made by their fellow-conspirators to save them; the ministers had been threatened with assassination; and such was the alarm which the audacity of the Fenians had inspired, that up to the last moment there was a strong and prevalent expectation that some great blow would be struck and some great effort made to save Allen and his two companions from their impending fate. The inhabitants of Manchester felt as if they were sitting on the crater of a volcano from which an eruption might burst forth at any moment. On the other hand, the authorities had taken effectual precautions against any contemplated attempt to rescue or avenge the murderers. The sentence of the court was carried out in the most orderly and tranquil manner on Saturday the 23rd of November, in the presence of about 12,000 persons, who behaved with a propriety seldom displayed at public executions.

On Friday the 10th of December another reckless attempt, attended by the usual disregard of the injury or loss of life to innocent persons which it might involve, was made in London. Some Fenians were confined in the house of detention at Clerk-

enwell. Information had been conveyed to their keepers that an attempt would be made to release them by blowing-up a portion of the wall of the building in which they were confined. The police were therefore instructed to be on the alert, and the prisoners were prevented from taking exercise in the yard at the usual time. However, on the above-mentioned day a man was observed wheeling a large barrel towards the prison, and with the assistance of a companion placing it in contact with the wall. After an ineffectual attempt the two men lighted a fusee projecting from the barrel, and ran away. They had scarcely disappeared when it exploded with a report that shook the metropolis, and was distinctly heard for many miles beyond it. The wall against which the barrel had been placed bounded the yard in which the prisoners were usually recreating at this hour. Had they been there, they would have run a great risk of being killed or seriously injured. The wall was two feet thick and twenty feet high, and a breach was made in it by the explosion twenty feet wide at the bottom and seventy feet at the top; so that the prisoners who had escaped injury might have made their way out without difficulty. But the damage done was not confined to the prison wall. Several houses near to the spot where the barrel had been deposited, were almost entirely destroyed. Six persons were killed on the spot, six more died soon after, and at least a hundred and twenty were more or less seriously injured. Timothy Desmond, Jeremiah Allen, and Ann Justice, who had frequently visited the prisoners and had been seen lurking about the prison just before the explosion occurred, were arrested on suspicion of having been concerned in the outrage. Ultimately a man named Barrett was tried, convicted, and executed.

These events, but especially the murder of Brett, produced a profound impression throughout England. It was regarded not only as a crime of great atrocity, but also as an indication of a deep-seated disease in the body politic, requiring other and

more thorough remedies than had hitherto been applied; and the state of public opinion thus produced made Mr. Gladstone feel that the time had come when the Irish Church question might be faced with a fair prospect of success.

Outrages even more base and cowardly than those committed by the Fenians were this year brought home to members of English trades-unions. The atrocities perpetrated by some of them had attracted general attention; and Lord Derby's government issued a commission to inquire into their organisation and rules. The general object of the societies whose character the commission was appointed to investigate, was to protect the interests of the workmen of the different trades they represented, and to raise and maintain the market-price of their labour. But the manner in which they pursued these objects was very different. In some cases the action of the men was moderate, and the rules fair and reasonable; in others they were absurd or infamous. In some cases the members of the trade were free to join the union or to abstain from joining it as they thought proper, and no illegal measures were employed to compel non-unionists to become members against their will; in other cases the most frightful outrages were perpetrated against those who refused to join the union, or, having joined it, to submit to the dictation, often exceedingly stupid and arbitrary, of its governing body. One objectionable feature common to almost all these societies was, the combination of a provident club with a trades-union; thus giving the council power to punish those who refused to comply with all their unionist requirements by depriving them of the benefit of a club to which perhaps they had contributed for many years, and to which they had looked forward as a sure resource in sickness and old age.

The control obtained by these or by still more questionable means was exercised with excessive harshness. Every member of the union was required to strike as often as the governing body might think proper, however well he might be satisfied

with the wages he received; he must not take piece-work or work overtime; and he was subjected to a variety of regulations with regard to his trade, the violation of any one of which would bring on him condign punishment. To work too diligently was a crime frequently visited with especial severity. In a word, the members of these unions were ruled with a tyranny almost insupportable; and the most infamous means were resorted to in order to compel persons to join the unions, or to punish them for their refusal; and these means were justified by those who resorted to them on the ground that the non-unionists obtained the benefits which resulted, or were supposed to result, from the action of the union, without helping to defray the expenses, or sharing the risks which attended this war between labour and capital. Such were the associations into the nature and character of which the Trades-Union Commission was appointed to inquire.

The town of Sheffield had long been notorious for outrages of a peculiarly diabolical character, perpetrated, as was alleged, at the instigation of some of its trades-unions. The allegation was, indeed, indignantly denied by the officers of those societies, who loudly demanded that the charges made against them should be investigated by the Commission. Their demand was granted; and Mr. Overend, Q.C., was appointed to conduct the inquiry. He had power given him to grant a free pardon to any persons who would fully disclose what they knew of the transactions he was appointed to investigate. Day after day he pursued the inquiry with great ability, and under his skilful and searching cross-examination, facts were elicited which left no doubt that some of the officers of trades-unions were implicated in the crimes that had been perpetrated. One atrocity after another was disclosed, till all previously discovered outrages were reduced to comparative insignificance by the revelations that were made respecting the death of a man named Linley, who had been murdered some time before, but whose assassins had escaped detection. On Wednesday

19th of June a man named Hallam, who, a few days before, had been committed to prison for six weeks for contempt of court, promised to tell all he knew, and was consequently brought up for re-examination. He confessed his complicity in some very heinous trade outrages, and stated the amount that had been paid him for the perpetration of them by Broadhead, the secretary of the union. At length Mr. Overend began to examine him with reference to the death of Linley. Hallam inquired whether in case he implicated any other person in the transaction referred to, he and his companions would be protected from prosecution. After receiving the assurance he desired, his examination, as reported in the *Times*, thus proceeded:

Mr. Overend. 'Now tell us for what purpose you bought the pistol.'

Witness again hesitated, and after appearing violently agitated fainted. He recovered consciousness in a few minutes, then fainted a second time. On his being again restored his examination was continued. He said: 'Crookes joined with me in shooting Linley. I compelled him, Crookes, to shoot him. He shot him with an air-gun.'

Mr. Overend. 'Had any other person set you to do this?—No, not to shoot him. I asked Broadhead one day what he was doing with Linley, and he said he would have a conversation with me the next day. I saw him the next day, and he asked me if I recollected the previous day's conversation. I said I did. He asked me what I would do with him? I told him I would make him as he would work no more.'

Mr. Overend. 'What did he say to that?—He asked me what I should want for doing it; and I asked him if 20*l.* would be too much. He said no, he should think not. I said I would do it.

'Did you tell him how?—No.

'How was it Crookes came into the matter?—I saw him on the following day, and told him I had got the job to do Linley.

He asked me whom I had seen, and I told him I had seen Broadhead, and that we were to have 20*l.*

'What did he say to that?—He said he thought we should not get 20*l.* I saw him again the week following. We went to Broadhead's to see what we were to have. Crookes saw him alone. When he returned to me, he said we were to have 15*l.*; that was all he would give. I then went upstairs to Broadhead, and he told me he would not give more than 15*l.* for the job. I agreed to do it. I got 3*l.* from him, and bought a revolver. Crookes had a revolver.

'How did you do this murder?—We followed Linley from one place to another; and as we found there was no chance of shooting him with a revolver, Crookes got an air-gun.

'Where?—I do not know.

'What did you do with the air-gun?—That was what Crookes shot him with.

'Was Crookes a good shot?—He was a pretty good shot to hit Linley where he did.

'Had you seen Crookes shoot with an air-gun before?—I had seen him shoot rabbits in Eccleshall-wood.

'How long did you follow Linley about before he was shot?—Five or six weeks.

'How often did you go after him to find an opportunity of shooting him?—Nearly every night but Sunday night.

'Where was he shot at last?—In Scotland-street. Linley was in the back room of the Crown Inn. We followed him from the American Stores to the Crown.

'Did you go into the public-house?—No, I went into the back yard to look. I could see into the room where Linley was sitting. He sat with his left hand to the window. It was about nine o'clock at night—just dusk. Crookes was in the street, and I went and told him where Linley was. There were other persons in the room with Linley. Crookes came and looked at Linley, and then refused to shoot. He had his air-gun with him.

'What did he do with the air-gun?—He would not shoot; there was no exit.

'No exit from the yard?—No.

'What did you do?—I went through the yard and found a way out. I told him this. He said there were too many people about. (A pause.)

'What did you say?—I told him he must either shoot Linley, or I would shoot him.

'What did he say?—He said there was no chance. I said I would do it myself, and risk it. He replied that I must not attempt; I might miss him. He would risk it.

'Well? (A pause.)—He shot him.'

The witness, in answer to further questions, narrated the flight of himself and his companion, and the payment of the blood-money. After a long examination, the witness was taken into custody.

Subsequently Crookes was examined. As he stepped into the witness-box, Broadhead said to him in a loud voice, 'Tell the truth, Sam; tell all.'

Mr. Overend cautioned Broadhead not to interfere in any way with the witness while he was giving his evidence; and warned Crookes that unless he made a full disclosure he would probably be tried for his life.

The witness confirmed the evidence of Hallam; but stated more distinctly than he had done, that his instructions from Broadhead were to wound Linley, not to kill him; adding, that he had intended to shoot him under the shoulder, but that as Linley was at the time leaning forward in earnest conversation, the ball glanced from the shoulder on to the back of the head, and thus inflicted a wound which eventually proved fatal.

Further investigations carried on at Manchester and several of the largest manufacturing towns revealed outrages scarcely less atrocious than those which Mr. Overend had succeeded in bringing to light at Sheffield. One brickmaker who dismissed

union-men had his shed burnt by naphtha, and much valuable property consumed. Other masters gave up business through fear of being assassinated. Thousands of needles were put into brickmakers' clay to injure the hands of non-union men who refused to obey the tyrannical behests of the union. Persons employed to protect property from these and other attempts were shot at, wounded, and even murdered; a favourite mare was roasted to death in a slow agony, lasting for more than two hours. Such were the means by which some of the Manchester unionists sought to enforce compliance with their tyrannical orders; and those in others places were not far behind them.

The indignation which the conduct of these fiends naturally rouses must not be allowed to blind us to the fact that the outrages of which they were guilty were the results of class legislation, arising from a want of proper representation in parliament of the class of which the trades-unions were composed. The protection of the law was refused to these societies even when they confined themselves to objects which were clearly legitimate, and the consequence was that they attempted to compass their aims by means which were illegitimate. If the law would not protect them, they would defy the law. Thus it always happens that injustice is as pernicious to those whom it is designed to protect as to those against whom it is employed. To this fact the eyes of the legislature have been opened, thanks in no small degree to the investigations of the trades-union commissioners; and the result of legislation founded on justice has been that outrages such as those we have recorded have become almost or altogether things of the past.

The session of 1868 found the Derby government, as the session of 1867 had left it, face to face with a liberal party greatly superior in numbers, but too divided to be easily combined in any movement for its overthrow. Mr. Disraeli therefore continued to employ the tactics which had hitherto enabled him to escape a fatal defeat, dexterously evading the questions

on which the opposition would be likely to unite against him. The Irish and Scotch reform bills had still to be passed, and the desirableness that they should be carried through parliament by the same administration that had superintended the English bill formed a plausible excuse for the still farther retention of office by the ministry of a minority. It was a state of things wholly without parallel in the history of the country; but it was urged on behalf of the government that the circumstances in which they had been placed by the errors and divisions of their opponents were also unprecedented.

As the session had been formally opened in the autumn of 1867, the two houses had only to take up their business where they had left it and as they had left it. They commenced their sittings on Thursday the 13th of February, on which day Mr. Disraeli with praiseworthy promptitude introduced a bill having for its object the more effectual prevention of corrupt practices at parliamentary elections. The plan he proposed was to create a court composed of three eminent members of the legal profession, with a salary of 2000*l.* per annum each, who were not only to decide on all election petitions, but to hear appeals from the decisions of revising barristers.

The health of Lord Derby had long been failing; he was weary of the duties of office, which, indeed, his growing infirmities disabled him from discharging with his wonted ability and efficiency. His resignation had long been expected, and it was formally announced on the 25th of February in the upper house by Lord Malmesbury, and in the lower by his son, Lord Stanley. It was added that the Queen had commanded Mr. Disraeli to form, if possible, a new administration, and that he had accepted the task. An adjournment, as a matter of course, was agreed to in the Commons: but the Lords continued their sittings in order to pass a bill for the suspension of the habeas-corpus act in Ireland. Mr. Disraeli carried out the commands that had been given him by inducing his colleagues to remain in office, with the exception of Lord Chelms-

ford, who was succeeded in the chancellorship by Lord Cairns. Of course he himself became first lord of the treasury, and Mr. Ward Hunt succeeded him as chancellor of the exchequer. When the House of Commons again met, on the Friday after the day of its adjournment, a further adjournment to the following Thursday was asked for by Lord Stanley, and somewhat reluctantly conceded by Mr. Gladstone.

Mr. Disraeli had attained the height of his ambition; he was now the foremost man in that very assembly which had once covered him with shouts of derision. The alteration that had taken place in the *personnel* of the ministry brought with it little change in its policy. The infirmities of Lord Derby had for some time past prevented him from taking an active part in the direction of the government, and caused him to devolve the whole guidance of affairs on his skilful lieutenant. The only real change, therefore, was, that Mr. Disraeli, who had all along been the real chief of his party, now became its recognised leader, no longer fettered by the necessity of consulting the nominal head of the government. If he felt elated by his elevation, he carefully concealed the feeling, and spoke with the air of a man who bore his honours meekly, and was heavily oppressed by the burden laid on him. When he addressed the House of Commons for the first time after his appointment he said that he succeeded to the place and policy of the Earl of Derby. He might have said that he carried on the policy which he himself had inaugurated before he occupied his present position. He added, that he would pursue a liberal policy; and when the House laughed at the statement, he qualified it by saying emphatically, a *truly* liberal policy; a declaration at which the House laughed still more loudly. He then proceeded to explain that the policy he meant to describe by the term 'liberal' was one that would not shrink from any changes required by the wants of the age, but would never forget that it is our happy lot to dwell in an ancient and historic country, rich in traditionary influences that are the

best security for order and liberty, and the most valuable element of our national character and strength. It can hardly be denied that these declarations were somewhat vague, and might have been made with at least equal truth by the leader of the opposition.

Mr. Bouverie moved an adjournment, in order to enable him to express his opinions on the state of parties in the House. He asked, 'Why are the conservatives now in power? Simply because the liberal party, though an undoubted majority in this House, and representing a vast preponderance of opinion in the country, does not deserve to be called a party. That may be an unpalatable truth, but it is a truth notwithstanding. We have leaders that won't lead, and followers that won't follow. Instead of an organised party, we are little better than a rabble.'

When the legislature got fairly to work after the interlude caused by the changes that had taken place in the ministry, the affairs of Ireland once more demanded and obtained a large share of its attention. It was felt that the Fenian agitation—base, cowardly, and contemptible as it was in itself—was the outward symptom of a deep-seated social and political cancer, which must at any cost be eradicated. The subject was brought forward by Mr. Maguire, who, in a speech of remarkable force and eloquence, proposed that the House should resolve itself into a committee to take into its immediate consideration the condition of Ireland. The motion was resisted by the ministry; who, in opposing it, clearly showed that, while they admitted the evils to which Ireland was a prey, they had no policy to propose which was calculated to deal with them effectually. In the course of the debate Mr. Gladstone let fall the word 'disestablishment,' and the thunders of applause which the expression elicited showed that a very large party in the House felt that the measure thus indicated was a necessary preliminary to the application of the other remedies for the chronic and inveterate maladies of Ireland, and made it evident that if

Mr. Gladstone would propose it, he would obtain the strong, earnest, and united support of the great liberal party—both in the House and the country. Mr. Disraeli, who followed him, met the enthusiastic demands of the opposition party with a firm declaration of his determination to resist with all his power any attempts that might be made to overthrow the Irish church, and with an ingenious argument in favour of the union between the church and state. The debate was the most important of the session, we may almost say of the generation; it marked out the ground on which the two parties, now opposed to one another, were to fight out their battle. Mr. Maguire's motion was withdrawn; but in accordance with the views he had announced the leader of the opposition gave notice, amidst the loud cheers of his supporters, of his intention to move the following resolutions:

'1. That in the opinion of this House it is necessary that the established church of Ireland should cease to exist as an establishment, due regard being had to all personal interests and to all individual rights of property.

'2. That, subject to the foregoing consideration, it is expedient to prevent the creation of new personal interests by the exercise of any public patronage, and to confine the operations of the ecclesiastical commissioners of Ireland to objects of immediate necessity or involving individual rights, pending the final decision of parliament.

'3. That a humble address be presented to her Majesty, humbly praying that, with a view to the purposes aforesaid, her Majesty will be graciously pleased to place at the disposal of parliament her interest in the temporalities of the archbishoprics, bishoprics, and other ecclesiastical dignities and benefices in Ireland and in the custody thereof.'

The resolutions thus announced were brought forward by Mr. Gladstone on Monday the 30th of March. He began by formally moving that the acts relating to the Irish church should be read. Whereupon, to the dismay of the House,

Colonel Knox moved that the Act of Union should be read. Eventually it was agreed that only those clauses of it relating to the Irish church should be read, which was done accordingly. Mr. H. E. Surtees requested that the Act of William and Mary prescribing the coronation oath should be read; and his request was complied with. Mr. Gladstone then moved that the House should go into committee on the resolutions of which he had given notice. Lord Stanley then moved the following resolution:

'That this House, while admitting that considerable modifications in the temporalities of the united church in Ireland may, after the pending inquiry, appear to be expedient, is of opinion that any proposition tending to the disestablishment or disendowment of that church ought to be reserved for the decision of the new parliament.'

In speaking on his motion Mr. Gladstone said: 'If I were asked as to my expectation of the issue of the struggle, I begin by frankly owning that I, for one, should not have entered into it unless I believed that the final hour was about to sound. I hope the noble lord will forgive me if I say that, before Friday last' (the day on which Lord Stanley gave notice of his resolution), 'I thought the thread of the remaining life of the Irish established church was short. Since Friday last at half-past four o'clock, and since the few moments that he stood at the table, I regard it as shorter still. The issue is not in our hands. What we have had and have to do is to consider well and deeply before we take that first step in an engagement such as this; but having entered into the controversy, we must quit ourselves like men, and make every effort to remove the scandal and calamity of the relations between England and Ireland, and use our best exertions to build up with the cement of honour and concord the noble fabric of the British empire.'

Lord Stanley advocated the resolution of which he had given notice on the ground that it would leave the action of the parliament that was about to be elected by the new and enlarged constituencies perfectly free and unfettered.

On the other hand, the resolution, and the government that put it forward, were severely assailed by their former colleague, but now bitter opponent, Lord Cranborne. He said that the leader of the opposition offered them a policy; the foreign secretary offered them a paltry excuse for delay. He maintained the principle of a state church, and would not desert that principle when applied to Ireland. He denounced the attitude assumed by ministers as being neither wise, firm, nor creditable; and as for the amendment of Lord Stanley, it was too clever by half. He said that he was prepared to meet the motion of Mr. Gladstone by a direct negative, but not to fight in the dark by supporting an amendment, which if carried would merely keep the cards in the hands of ministers to shuffle just as convenience or exigency might suggest. On the following evening Mr. Gathorne Hardy defended the Irish church in a speech powerfully effective, not only on account of its ability, but still more from the fervid and almost religious earnestness with which it was delivered. He said that the cry against it was a party cry, and that if it were abolished to-morrow, other grievances far more substantial would be put forward. Mr. Bright, in the course of the same evening, remarked that the impression left on the ministerial benches by the speech of Lord Stanley was far from comfortable, and that Mr. Hardy had endeavoured to neutralise it by a speech which at some future stage of the debate would probably be answered by the first minister of the crown. He said there was confusion and chaos in the House; a government in a minority, and an opposition that was no opposition at all. In approaching the consideration of the question before the House he declined to admit that the disendowment of the Irish church would inflict wrong on the half million of members of the episcopal church in Ireland. That body had ludicrously failed as an engine of conversion. It had not made Catholics Protestants, but it had made Catholics more intensely Roman than they were in any other country of Europe. He urged that

there was nothing dangerous nor terrible in the leap which the House was invited to take. If the effort were made, the hob-goblin would vanish, like *protection, the balance of power*, and many other things that used to frighten the tory party. 'In my opinion,' said Mr. Bright, 'the changes of our times are the glory of our times, and I believe that our posterity will look on them as the natural and blessed growth of truth and intelligence. On the third night Mr. Roebuck expressed a hope that the trick which had been played by the liberal party in 1859 and 1866 would not again be resorted to. Mr. Disraeli, on the last night of the debate, talked of having fathomed a conspiracy between Ritualism and Popery to overthrow the throne. In his reply Mr. Gladstone stated that if his plans should be adopted, nearly two-thirds of the property of the Irish church would remain in the hands of its ministers, and it would be placed in a position as free as any dissenting body in this country.

At the close of this, the fourth night of the debate, two divisions took place in which government was defeated by majorities of 60 and 56.

A passage in the premier's speech having called forth much remark, an explanation of it was given in the following letter, addressed to the Rev. A. Baker, one of his constituents, who had written to him on the subject, and published in the *Times*.

"Hughenden Manor, Maundy Thursday, 1868.

'Rev. Sir,—I have just received your letter, in which, as one of my constituents, you justify your right to ask for some explanation of my alleged assertion that the high-church ritualists had been long in secret combination, and were now in open confederacy, with Irish Romanists for the destruction of the union between church and state. I acknowledge your right of making this inquiry; and if I do not notice in detail the various suggestions in your letter, it is from no want of courtesy, but from the necessity of not needlessly involving myself in

literary controversy. You are under a misapprehension if you suppose that I intended to cast any slur on the high-church party. I have the highest respect for the high-church party. I believe there is no body of men in this country to which we have been more indebted from the days of Queen Anne to the days of Queen Victoria for the maintenance of the orthodox faith, the rights of the crown, and the liberties of the people. In saying this I have no wish to intimate that the obligations of the country to the other great party in the church are not equally significant. I have never looked upon the existence of parties in our church as a calamity. I look upon them as a necessity, and a beneficial necessity. They are the natural and inevitable consequences of the mild and liberal principles of our ecclesiastical polity, and of the varying and opposite elements of the human mind and character. When I spoke I referred to an extreme faction in the church of very modern date, that does not conceal its ambition to destroy the connection between church and state, and which I have reason to believe has been for some time in secret combination, and is now in open confederacy, with the Irish Romanists for the purpose. The Liberation Society, with its shallow and short-sighted fanaticism, is a mere instrument in the hands of this confederacy, and will probably be the first victim of the spiritual despotism the Liberation Society is now blindly working to establish. As I hold that the dissolution of the union between church and state will cause permanently a greater revolution in this country than foreign conquest, I shall use my utmost energies to defeat these fatal machinations. Believe me, rev. sir,

'Your faithful member and servant,

'B. DISRAELI.'

The Easter holidays had now arrived, and little work had been done in the course of the session. The late period at which it commenced, the illness of Lord Derby and his consequent absence from his place in the House of Lords, the long

interval which had been asked and granted for carrying out the changes which his retirement rendered necessary, the debates on Mr. Maguire's motion and Mr. Gladstone's resolutions, had so occupied the time due to legislation, that, with the exception of the bill suspending the habeas-corpus act in Ireland, little had hitherto been effected. The bribery bill, the bankruptcy bill, the Irish reform bill—all of them measures introduced by the government—were in a state of suspended animation; and even the army and navy estimates had been delayed beyond the usual time, the latter having been postponed owing to the illness of Mr. Corry, the minister who had the charge of them, till after Easter. The indispensably necessary business had been pushed on at intervals as well as circumstances would allow.

At the close of the Easter vacation the House of Commons proceeded with the business of the session, the government making no sign, and giving no explanation of the course they intended to adopt. The budget was brought forward as usual. The interest which Mr. Ward Hunt's financial statement excited was lessened by the necessity of making provision for the cost of the Abyssinian expedition—a necessity which rendered impossible any of those financial operations which under more propitious circumstances he might have attempted. The introduction of the budget was soon followed by the news of the decisive termination of the Abyssinian war. The Abyssinian army had been routed, Magdala taken, the Emperor Theodore had fallen by his own hands, the captives had been recovered, and Sir Robert Napier and his troops, having achieved all they had been sent to accomplish, were returning.

Meanwhile, after a discussion extending over eleven nights, the house divided on Mr. Gladstone's first resolution on the 30th of April, when the numbers were:

For Mr. Gladstone's resolution...	330
Against	265
Majority against the government	65

Mr. Disraeli at once said that the vote at which the committee had now arrived had altered the relations between the government and the House of Commons; and therefore, as it would be necessary that they should consider their position, he proposed that the House should adjourn to the following Monday; an arrangement adopted with Mr. Gladstone's concurrence, who, however, placed on the paper a notice pledging the House to go on with the second and third resolutions on Monday before proceeding with the committee of ways and means.

On the day named the premier announced the intentions of government to a densely-crowded and eagerly-expectant House. He stated that he had waited on the Queen, and laid before her the position of the government, of the different parties in the House and the country; and had concluded by telling her that the advice which the ministers were prepared to offer her was that she should dissolve parliament, and take the opinion of the country on the conduct of the government and on the question at issue. At the same time he had represented to her majesty that there were important occasions on which it was desirable that the sovereign should not be embarrassed by personal claims; and that if she was of opinion that the question at issue could be more satisfactorily settled, and the interests of the country better promoted, by the immediate retirement of the present government from office, they were prepared to quit her service. He had then tendered his resignation to her majesty, who took a day to consider what had been said to her, and then announced that it was her pleasure not to accept the resignation of her ministers, and declared her readiness to dissolve parliament as soon as the state of public business would permit. Under these circumstances he advised her majesty that although the representatives of the existing constituencies were no doubt as morally competent to decide on the question of the disestablishment of the Irish church as the representatives of the new constituencies, still it was the opinion of ministers that every effort should be made for ap-

pealing, if possible, to the new constituencies; and he stated that if the government had the cordial co-operation of parliament, he was advised by those who were experienced in this matter that it would be possible to make arrangements by which the dissolution might take place in the coming autumn. With regard to the second and third resolutions on the Irish church, having disapproved of the first, he of course disapproved of the second and third, which he looked upon as corollaries to the first. With a view to the despatch of business, however, he would not enter into protracted and formal discussions upon them, though he should offer them a hearty negative; but he would be happy to devote the earliest possible day at the disposal of the government for their consideration.

Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Lowe, and Mr. Bright, all condemned the course pursued by the government as unconstitutional, and contended that after the severe defeats they had sustained they had no right to recommend a dissolution, but ought at once to have given in their resignations.

The subject was again brought up on the following day in consequence of an apparent discrepancy between the statement made by the Duke of Richmond in the House of Lords and that made by Mr. Disraeli in the House of Commons. Mr. Gladstone questioned the prime-minister with regard to it, and received from him the reply that there was not the slightest intentional difference between his original and his subsequent statement of what took place. 'When,' said he, 'I attended her Majesty at Osborne, after acquainting her Majesty with the position of the government, I at once recommended that in the present state of affairs, not only in justice to the government, but for the sake of the country and the great issue at stake, parliament should be dissolved immediately, or as soon as the state of public business permitted.'

Mr. Bright. 'Did you recommend an appeal to the present constituencies?'

Mr. Disraeli. 'The honourable member has interposed with

a matter that has nothing to do with the question. I recommended the dissolution absolutely and unequivocally, without reference to any particular circumstance, as soon as the state of public business should permit. I said afterwards that I had hoped that by giving up all other bills which we had introduced and by confining our attention to supplemental reform measures, if the house acted cordially with me, a general election might take place by an appeal to the new constituencies. As I was the person who had audience of her majesty, I think my statement should be taken; but if any of my colleagues elsewhere has made a statement which conveyed a different impression, the logical procedure would be, that that colleague should be called upon to explain the discrepancy.'

Thus Mr. Disraeli, though really in a considerable minority, had the House of Commons as much under his control as if he was the leader of a large majority; for if they did not accept the measures he placed before them, he might allege that they had compelled him to make his appeal to the existing constituencies, in which case it would be necessary to dissolve the new parliament at a very early stage of its existence, in order that the new constituencies might exercise the franchises that had been conferred on them. This was the rod which circumstances and his own dexterity had placed in the hands of the prime-minister, by whom it was sure to be employed with great effect. Several members tried to extract some pledge or explanation with regard to the power of dissolution with which the Queen had intrusted him; but all these attempts were skilfully parried and put aside. Mr. Gladstone's two remaining resolutions were subsequently put and carried, ministers declining to divide against them. Then followed a scene such as has seldom been witnessed in the House of Commons. Mr. Aytoun, a Scotch member, not satisfied with the success of Mr. Gladstone's well-considered resolutions, insisted on adding to them a rider, that the Maynooth grant and the *regium donum* should be discontinued. In vain did Mr. Gladstone explain that this was a

matter for after-consideration, and referred to his own previous declarations of approval of the course which this ill-timed motion indicated. Mr. Aytoun persisted, and the bone of contention he had thrown down brought out at once the differences of opinion that existed in the liberal ranks. The ministers seeing that their work was being effectually done by their opponents, walked out of the House, leaving the opposition to fight out this civil war, which they did amid bellowing, screeching, cheering, yelling, and vehement gesticulation; and their anger was raised to the highest pitch, when Mr. Disraeli, who had now returned to the House, said that his expectations had been realised, and that the gentleman on the opposite side of the house were now quarrelling over their booty. This sarcasm introduced a new element of disorder, and the confused discussion ended in the adoption of the following rider to Mr. Gladstone's resolutions:

'4. That when legislative effect shall have been given to the first resolution of this committee respecting the established church in Ireland, it is right and necessary that the grant to Maynooth and the *regium donum* be discontinued, due regard being had to all personal interests.'

The navy estimates, brought in on Monday, the 11th of May, three months after the usual time, were fully discussed; Captain Mackinnon pointing out some serious defects in the construction of our ironclads; and Mr. Corry, in a speech of three hours, going through the estimates, and leaving no important item unexplained or undefended. On Wednesday, the 13th, Mr. Gladstone had given notice of a bill based on his Irish-church resolutions, which was on the order of the day; but as it was a quarter to six before it could be brought forward, it was necessarily deferred.

The Scotch reform bill, which was being hurried through as speedily as possible, in order that it might be passed before the dissolution, rendered necessary some important modifications of the English bill already passed. In order to give Scotland a

fair share in the representation, the government proposed to increase the number of members in the House. It was generally felt that the number was already too great, and required diminution rather than increase. Mr. Baxter therefore moved, before the House went into committee on the bill, that it should be an instruction to the committee that instead of adding to the number of the House, they should have power to disfranchise boroughs in England having by the census returns of 1861 fewer than 5000 inhabitants; a provision which would have the effect of disfranchising ten boroughs. Now one of the features of the reform bill of 1867, on which Mr. Disraeli had descanted with peculiar satisfaction, was that it did not disfranchise a single borough. This boast Mr. Baxter's amendment ruthlessly swept away; and therefore it was proposed by Sir R. Knightley that the ten seats required for Scotland should be obtained by taking a seat from every borough whose population was below 12,000. Mr. Disraeli at once submitted to the decision of the House that the number of its members should not be altered, and warmly supported Sir R. Knightley's amendment, as being in his opinion the best means of effecting that object. Mr. Gladstone, on the other hand, gave his support to Mr. Baxter's motion, which was carried against the government by 217 votes to 196. The same evening the government suffered a still more damaging defeat. Mr. Bouverie moved that the rate-paying clause should be struck out. Now this clause had been repeatedly upheld by the premier as a 'vital principle' of the bill; when therefore it was struck out in a thin house by a majority of 22, Mr. Disraeli moved that progress should be reported, in order that the government might have time to consider the position in which this decision placed them. Here, then, was another ministerial crisis. It passed over, however, as easily as many that had preceded it. Mr. Disraeli stated, that in his opinion the decision of the House would seriously affect the operation of the reform act; in which the principle of the payment of rates was recognised as a con-

dition of the possession of the household suffrage in the united kingdom; but he entertained a hope that he should be able to induce the committee to reconsider their determination, and with this view he intended to propose on Monday the addition of a proviso, that no elector in Scotland should be allowed to exercise the franchise who was not rated to the poor and had not paid his rates. Before the day arrived a compromise had been made, and resolutions embodying it, moved by the Lord Advocate, were agreed to. The Irish reform bill, the boundary bill, the registration bill, the bribery bill, and other measures which it was thought necessary to pass before the dissolution, were pushed forward as rapidly as possible. On the other hand, Mr. Gladstone's suspensory bill passed the Commons without much farther opposition; and though its rejection was moved in the upper House by Earl Grey, and discussed in one of the ablest debates that has ever been carried on in that house, extending over three nights, the amendment was defeated on a division by 192 votes to 97. During the concluding portion of the session two bills occupied a considerable share of the interest and attention of the House of Commons: the first of these was the bribery bill, with regard to which the house finally reverted to the plan originally proposed, that the jurisdiction of the house over these cases, should be transferred to the judges; and in this shape the bill finally passed, in spite of a strong remonstrance made by Lord Chief Justice Cockburn in the name of the whole judicial bench. The other measure was the foreign cattle bill, which, after having engaged a large share of the attention of the legislature almost from the commencement of the session, and after having been assailed from all quarters, was finally talked out for want of sufficient time to devote to its consideration.

While parliament was engaged night after night in the exciting political game which was being played out between the two great parties, a measure of much public importance and utility was making its way through the House with compara-

tively little notice—the bill which authorised the government to purchase the electric telegraphs from the various private companies by which they had hitherto been worked, and to unite them in one great national system. At length the business of parliament was sufficiently transacted to allow the appeal to be made to the new constituencies; and so on the last day of July parliament was prorogued with a view to its dissolution.

And now commenced the canvass for decidedly the most remarkable general election that has taken place since that which followed the passing of the reform act of 1832. Some months, however, had yet to elapse before the necessary preliminaries could be settled, the various changes required by the acts lately passed be carried out, and the electoral struggle actually commence. The manifesto of the ministerialist party was published by the prime-minister in an address to the electors of Buckingham, which was of course intended not for them only, but for the great body both of county and borough electors throughout the kingdom.

It commenced, as was natural and allowable, with a glorification of his own cabinet. They had dealt with the vexed question of parliamentary reform by a settlement broad in its principles, large and various in its provisions, and calculated in their opinion to animate the spirit of the community, and add strength and stability to the state. They had obtained the sympathy and confidence of the various courts and powers, and used the influence of England for the maintenance of peace and the interests of civilisation. They had vindicated the honour of the crown and the cause of humanity and justice in Abyssinia. They had materially increased the strength of the navy, much advanced the defences of the country, armed the soldiers with an admirable weapon, rendered the military service popular, and by placing the control of the military expenditure in the hands of a single individual commenced a reform which would conduce to greater economy both in peace and war. They had baffled in Ireland a conspiracy formed by foreign

military adventurers, and had pursued a policy of sympathy, conciliation, and justice towards that country.

Under such circumstances Mr. Disraeli had thought that he and his colleagues might have been allowed tranquilly to wind-up the business of the session: and then to have asked, in accordance with the provisions of the great statute which had just been passed, the public verdict on their conduct. He complained, however, that this natural current of affairs had been interrupted, and that the leader of the opposition had seized the occasion of an expiring parliament, which had proclaimed its inadequate representation of the country, to recommend a change in the fundamental laws of the realm, and propose a dissolution of the union between church and state. He announced that her majesty's government would offer an uncompromising resistance to this policy; and insisted that the connection of religion with the exercise of political authority was one of the main safeguards of the civilisation of man. He argued at some length and with great ingenuity in favour of the maintenance of this principle in Ireland where the members of the established church were a small minority, as well as in England and Scotland where they perhaps constituted the majority.

As the views of the leader of the conservative party with regard to the questions which were to decide the fate of the government and much else besides, were stated in this document with energetic terseness, we place them before the reader in the words of its author.

'It is urged that in the present instance the application of the new policy is to be only partial; and that only one portion of her majesty's dominions, Ireland, is for the present to be submitted to the revolution; and on this plea, that in Ireland the members of the established church form only a minority of the population.

'If this numerical test is to be accepted, its application cannot be limited to Ireland; and if, in a country of entire tolera-

tion, a local instead of an imperial gauge be adopted, the religious integrity of the community will be frittered away.

'Instead of Ireland being made an exception to the fundamental condition of our constitution, there are many secondary reasons why the established church should be maintained in that country.

'Its subversion would aggravate religious hostility and party rancour; would suppress a resident class of men whose social virtues are conducive, as all agree, to the welfare of the country; and would farther diminish the security of property in a land where its tenure and enjoyment are not as unquestioned as they hitherto have been in other parts of her majesty's dominions.

'But even in Great Britain the spoliation of the church in Ireland would not be without its effect. Confiscation is contagious; and when once a community has been seduced into plunder, its predatory acts have seldom been single.

'There are, however, even weightier reasons why this new policy should be resisted.

'The religious liberty which all her majesty's subjects now happily enjoy is owing to the Christian church in this country having accepted the principles of the reformation, and recognised the supremacy of the sovereign as the representative of the state, not only in matters temporal, but in matters ecclesiastical. This is the stronghold of our spiritual freedom. So long as there is in this country the connection through the medium of a Protestant sovereign between the state and the national church, religious liberty is secure.

'That security is now assailed by various means and on different pleas; but amidst the discordant activity of many factions there moves the supreme purpose of one power. The philosopher may flatter himself he is advancing the cause of enlightened progress; the sectarian may be roused to exertion by anticipations of the downfall of ecclesiastical systems. These are transient efforts; vain and passing aspirations. The ultimate triumph,

were our church to fall, would be to that power which would substitute for the authority of our sovereign the supremacy of a foreign prince; to that power with whose traditions, learning, discipline, and organization our church alone has hitherto been able to cope, and that too only when supported by a determined and devoted people.'

This manifesto was issued on the 1st of October; that of Mr. Disraeli's great rival was dated on the 9th of the same month; and addressed to the electors of South-west Lancashire, for the representation of which division Mr. Gladstone was a candidate. It stated with great clearness the policy of that great party of which he was the leader, and the issue placed before the constituencies of the empire, of which he gave the following concise summary.

'Rest as we are, by common consent we cannot. Endowment of all, after the events of the last session, is out of the question. Retrenchment or mutilation of the existing church by reduction of its spiritual offices has been proposed by a royal commission; but I do not learn from the latest and most authentic declarations of the ministry, that they adopt that, or indeed any other, method of proceeding. We of the opposition, gentlemen, have done our part. The matter now rests with you. One path at least lies before you, broad, open, and well defined. One policy has advocates who do not shrink from its avowal. It is the policy of bringing absolutely to an end the civil establishment of the church of Ireland. It has received the solemn sanction of the representatives whom the nation chose in 1865. For this line of action, the only one just, and the only one available, I confidently ask your approval.'

A man who occupied a very prominent and important place in our history passed away on the 7th of May, in the 90th year of his age,—Henry Lord Brougham and Vaux: H. Brougham, as he continued to the last, in defiance of all etiquette, to sign himself. It is hardly possible for those who have not seen this extraordinary man in the days of his matured power, fully to

comprehend the strong energy, the indomitable perseverance, the indefatigable industry with which he laboured and fought against that tory domination which pressed so heavily on this country from the close of the war in 1815 to the end of 1830, or the audacity with which he braved the displeasure of the court of George IV. in defending his queen. These efforts won him the honour of representing the county of York, and made him one of the first men in the kingdom. When the vehement tribune of the people was suddenly transformed into lord high chancellor he discharged his new functions with marvellous diligence. But the atmosphere of the lower House was more congenial to his ardent temperament than the calm and quiet dignity of the upper chamber. And when he lost the chancellorship, he felt and showed, that his proper place was not that of a peer; displaying a restless and consuming energy that for want of fitting employment oftentimes expended itself in ways that did not tend to elevate his character or raise his reputation. But the services that he had rendered during his younger days and during the period of his chancellorship entitle him to the gratitude of his country, and have secured for him a prominent place in the history of the earlier portion of the nineteenth century.

Seldom perhaps has a more frightful accident happened in any country than that which occurred on the Chester and Holyhead railway, near Abergele, on the 19th of August in this year. The limited Irish mail, one of the swiftest trains in the kingdom, known to the people who lived near the line of railroad which it traversed by the name of the 'Wild Irishman,' was rushing up the slight incline between the Abergele and Llandulas stations at a speed of more than thirty miles an hour, when it met some wagons from a luggage-train which had been carelessly allowed to run down the incline. One of these wagons was loaded with barrels of petroleum. The violence of the collision that ensued broke the barrels, the vapour from the oil thus released reached the furnace of the locomotive, and in

a moment the engine and the foremost carriages of the train were enveloped in a fierce flame which speedily reduced them and their occupants to ashes. The engine-driver, who had leaped from the train a moment before the collision, aided by the guard and some of the passengers, succeeded in uncoupling that part of the train that came from London and pushing it beyond the reach of the flames. But a composite carriage, two first-class carriages, a second-class carriage, and a luggage-van were consumed, and all within them perished. Indeed, such was the intensity of the heat, and so suffocating the vapour emitted, that an hour elapsed before it was possible to approach them. No fewer than thirty-three persons perished by this terrible disaster. A thorough and searching investigation of the causes of the accident was, of course, instituted, and it was found that a heavy luggage-train was due at the Llandulas station, and had to be shunted there only about a quarter of an hour before the Wild Irishman swept by like a whirlwind, and it was manifest that a little delay in labouring up the incline, a break-down of the heavily-laden engine, or a mishap in the hasty shunting, were things which might at any time cause a frightful catastrophe. But at the Llandulas station the operation of shunting had to be performed at the top of the incline, up which the Irish train might be rushing at the very moment amidst the hurry and trepidation which the knowledge of its proximity was calculated to produce.

When these facts became generally known, it was naturally asked: Ought not circumstances so likely to lead to fearful accidents to be avoided by allowing a longer interval between the trains? Ought there not to be the means of communicating with the preceding station by telegraph, so that in case of such a casualty as had occurred, the express-train might be stopped? Should not some special precautions be taken for the safe conveyance of a substance so inflammable as petroleum? The accident also drew attention to the practice of locking the doors of railway carriages—a practice long since denounced by Sidney

Smith with his usual humour and ability, but which, in spite of all his wit and arguments, was still continued.

A few days after the accident the village of Abergele was the scene of a sad and solemn rite. The poor charred remnants of thirty-three bodies were committed to one huge grave in the humble churchyard. Though the persons who had so terribly perished were wholly unconnected with the village, and it was only by the accidental circumstance of the collision having occurred near the station that they were to be interred there, every token of sympathy and respect was displayed by the inhabitants. The shops were closed, a dead silence reigned throughout the neighbourhood, and a large number of the inhabitants followed the relatives and friends of the deceased to the grave where the impressive service for the dead was duly performed over the ashes—literally the ashes—of those who had been so suddenly plunged into eternity.

The proclamation announcing the dissolution of the parliament, and summoning the electors to choose their respresentatives, was issued on the 11th of November. The electoral battle was attended by many casualties. Mr. Mill was defeated at Westminster, and his place was supplied by an eminent bookseller; Baron Rothschild was rejected by the city of London; Mr. Roebuck was beaten at Sheffield by Mr. Mundella; Mr. Gladstone, defeated in South West Lancashire, was returned for Greenwich without expense, and without solicitation. Mr. Milner Gibson was rejected at Ashton-under-Lyne; Sir Wentworth Dilke lost the seat he had occupied for Wallingford, but his son was elected for Chelsea, though opposed by Dr. Russell, the able and popular historian of the Crimean war; Mr. Miall unsuccessfully contested Bradford, but was shortly afterwards elected to represent it. The result was, on the whole, a very decided majority for the opposition, though there were many remarkable conservative victories; none of which perhaps caused greater surprise than the return of eight representatives of that party for the county of Lancaster, being the whole of

the representatives of the various divisions of the county, once foremost in its liberalism among the counties of England. Scarcely less remarkable or more unexpected were the triumphs achieved by the conservatives at Bolton, Blackburn, and several other boroughs of the manufacturing districts. Another circumstance falsified a great number of predictions that had been very confidently uttered. The effect of the new reform bill, under which this election took place, was to place the majority of the votes in the greater number of constituences in the hands of the working classes, and it had been very unhesitatingly affirmed that they would make use of the power thus confided to them to send to parliament men of their own class, or at all events men of violent and revolutionary views and opinions. But these prophecies were completely falsified by the event. There were indeed a good number of what were termed working men's candidates; many of them, too, men of considerable ability, who would have been able to throw much valuable light on many questions discussed in the House of Commons. There were Mr. Ernest Jones, Mr. Mason Jones, Mr. Greening, Mr. Beales, Dr. Kenealy, Mr. Hartwell, Mr. Odger, Mr. Bradlaugh. But these gentlemen were, without a single exception, completely defeated, and the House of Commons which was actually returned was the wealthiest House of Commons that had ever assembled; and although elected to carry out Mr. Gladstone's policy, it was very far indeed from being an assembly likely to yield to any violent or revolutionary impulses, or to make headlong and dangerous changes. On the contrary, perhaps no parliament ever sat that was better disposed to give a calm, independent, and unprejudiced consideration to the measures submitted to it. So much for the predictions that had been so long and so freely uttered with regard to the consequences that would follow from a large extension of the franchise.

Before the new parliament assembled the Disraeli ministry had ceased to exist. It was evident that the verdict of the

country was decidedly against it, and that the policy of the opposition would be supported by a majority of something like 120 in the new parliament. The only question therefore for ministers to consider was, whether they should meet parliament and undergo an inevitable defeat, or bow to the feeling of the country and resign at once. This question was discussed at a cabinet-council held on Tuesday the 1st of December, and the conclusion to which it came was in favour of the latter alternative. It was a wise and proper decision, preventing the loss of much valuable time and the expenditure of much useless energy. Mr. Gladstone was sent for to form a new administration. Of course, after the result of the general election, he had little difficulty in executing this task, and it was soon announced that he had succeeded in forming a ministry of which the following were the chief members:

First Lord of the Treasury	Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone.
Lord Chancellor	Lord Hatherley.
Lord President of the Council ...	Earl de Grey.
Lord Privy Seal	Earl of Kimberley.
Chancellor of the Exchequer ...	Mr. Lowe.
Home Secretary	Mr. Bruce.
Foreign Secretary	Earl of Clarendon.
Colonial Secretary	Earl Granville.
War Secretary	Mr. Cardwell.
Indian Secretary	Duke of Argyle.
President of the Board of Trade ...	Mr. Bright.
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster	Lord Dufferin.
Postmaster-general	The Marquis of Hartington.
First Lord of the Admiralty	Mr. Childers.
Lord Lieutenant of Ireland	Earl Spencer.
Chief Secretary for Ireland	Mr. Chichester Fortescue.
Woods and Forests	Mr. A. H. Layard.

Few governments have ever been more popular than this administration at the time of its accession to office. This was chiefly due to the presence in it of Messrs. Gladstone and Bright, in whom the overwhelming majority of the nation had great confidence, and who on every occasion in which they appeared in public were objects of the warmest demonstrations of the favour and confidence with which they were regarded.

CHAPTER VI.

THE GLADSTONE MINISTRY.

THE new parliament was opened by royal commission on Thursday, December the 10th. The first business done by the House of Commons was the re-election of the speaker. As the retirement of the late ministry had rendered a party struggle unnecessary, the swearing-in of members and other preliminary formalities having been gone through, and the motions rendered necessary by the acceptance of office on the part of the new ministers having been duly made and carried, the House rose for the Christmas vacation.

The business of the session of 1869 commenced on Tuesday the 16th of February. The upper House, indeed, sat before that day, but only as a matter of form. The royal speech, read by the lord chancellor, contained the following reference to the proposed legislation on the subject of the Irish church: 'The ecclesiastical arrangements of Ireland will be brought under your consideration at a very early date; and the legislation which will be necessary in order to their final adjustment, will make the largest demands on the wisdom of parliament. I am persuaded that in the prosecution of the work you will bear a careful regard to every legitimate interest which it may involve; and that you will be governed by the constant aim to promote the welfare of religion through the principles of equal justice; to secure the action of undivided feeling and opinion in Ireland on the side of loyalty and the law; to efface the memory of former contentions, and to cherish the sympathies of an affectionate people.' Some unimportant criticisms were

made on the speech; but the only remark that excited much interest or attention was the announcement made by Mr. Gladstone that he would introduce the government measure dealing with the question of the Irish church on the 1st of March.

A complaint of a somewhat unusual kind issued from the House of Lords. It was a cry for more work, raised by Lord Cranbourne—now become, by the death of his father, Earl of Salisbury and a member of the upper chamber of the legislature. He complained, and other members of the House complained with him, that while the Commons had more work before them than they could hope to get through, the peers had nothing to do. Lord Granville promised to find them employment, and began by at once placing before them a bill for the repression of crime, and holding out a hope that it would be followed by a bankruptcy bill.

On the 1st of March the new premier, according to promise, introduced his great measure for the disestablishment and partial disendowment of the Irish church, in a speech of three hours' duration; which Mr. Disraeli described as eloquent, full, adequate, and not containing one unnecessary word.

The plan which this speech explained was the following:

On the 1st of January, 1871, the Irish church would cease to be recognised by the state; though the date might be altered if the House should think it necessary to change it.

On the second reading of the measure, subsequently fixed for the 18th of the month, the technical disendowment was to commence.

On the final passing of the bill, the Irish ecclesiastical commission was to come to an end, and to be succeeded by a new commission which was to carry out the transition from the present state of the church to that of a free episcopal church. During the transitional period no new vested interests were to be created.

The crown was to resign the right of appointing Irish

bishops, and the Irish bishops were to lose their seats in the House of Lords.

A synodal or governing body, representing the clergy and the laity of the Irish church, was to be elected; and after being recognised by the queen in council as a duly-constituted representative body, was to be legally incorporated by the government.

The union between the churches of England and Ireland was to be formally dissolved, all the Irish ecclesiastical courts to be abolished, and the ecclesiastical law to remain provisionally in force as a voluntary compact, until it should be altered by the church itself.

These were the principal provisions of the bill. There were many others, relating to vested interests, to the fulfilment of duties, the principles on which the property of the church should be divided, the administration of it for the future, the disposal of the churches, and the management and appropriation of the revenues which would remain after all claims had been satisfied. Mr. Gladstone thus concluded the speech by which the measure was introduced to the House of Commons.

'I believe I have now gone through the chief of these almost endless arrangements; and I have laid, as well as I am able, the plans of the government before the committee. I will not venture to anticipate the judgment of the committee; but I trust it will be of opinion that it is at any rate a plan loyal to the expectations we held out on a former occasion, and loyal to the people of England who believed our promises. I hope also that the members of the committee may think that the best pains we could give have been applied in order to develop and mature the measure; and I say that with great submission to the judgment of gentlemen on this and on the other side of the House. It is a subject of legislation so exceedingly complex and varied, that I have no doubt there must be errors, omissions, and many possible improvements; and we shall welcome from every side, quite irrespective of differences of opinion on

the outlines of the measure, suggestions which, when those outlines are decided on, may tend to secure a more beneficial application of those funds to the welfare of the people of Ireland.

'I trust, sir, that although its operation should be stringent, and although we have not thought it either politic or allowable to attempt to diminish its stringency by making it incomplete, the spirit towards the church of Ireland as a religious communion in which this measure has been considered and prepared by my colleagues and myself has not been a spirit of unkindness. Perhaps at this time it is too much to expect to obtain full credit for any declaration of that kind. We are undoubtedly asking an educated, highly respected, and generally pious and zealous body of clergymen to undergo a great transition; we are asking a powerful and intelligent minority of the laity of Ireland in connection with the established church to abate a good part of the exceptional privileges they have enjoyed; but I do not feel that in making this demand on them we are seeking to inflict an injury. I do not believe that they are exclusively or even mainly responsible for the errors of English policy towards Ireland: I am quite certain that in many vital respects they have suffered by it. I believe that the free air they will breathe under a system of equality and justice, giving scope for the development of their great energies with all the powers of property and intelligence they will bring to bear, will make that Ireland they love a country for them not less enviable and less beloved in the future than it has been in the past. As respects the church, I admit that, almost without exception, I do not know any country in which so great a change, so great a transition, has been proposed for the ministers of a religious communion who have enjoyed for many ages the preferred position of an established church. I can well understand that to many in the Irish establishment such a change appears to be nothing less than ruin and destruction. From the height on which they now stand the

future is to them an abyss, and their fears recall the words used in *King Lear* when Edgar endeavours to persuade Gloucester that he has fallen over the cliffs of Dover, and says:

> "Ten masts at each make not the altitude
> Which thou hast perpendicularly fell;
> Thy life's a miracle."

And yet but a little while after, the old man is relieved from the delusion, and finds that he has not fallen at all. So I trust that, when the fictitious and adventitious aid on which we have too long taught the Irish establishment to lean is removed, it will place its trust in its own resources, in its own GREAT MISSION, in all that it can draw from the energy of its ministers and members, and the high hopes and promises of the gospel that it teaches, and will find that it has entered upon a new era of existence—an era bright with hope and potent for good.

'At any rate, I think the day has certainly come when an end is finally to be put to that union, not between the church and religious association, but between the establishment and the state, which was commenced under circumstances little auspicious, and has endured to be a source of unhappiness to Ireland, and of scandal and discredit to England. This measure is in every sense a GREAT measure; great in its principles, great in the multitude of its dry, technical, but, nevertheless, interesting details, and great as a testing measure, for it will show for one and all of us of what mettle we are made. Upon us all it brings a great responsibility. We upon this bench are especially chargeable—nay, deeply guilty, if we have either dishonestly, or even prematurely or unwisely, challenged so gigantic an issue. I know well the punishments that follow rashness in public affairs, and that ought to fall on those men—those Phaetons in politics—that, with hands unequal to the task, attempt to guide the chariot of the Sun. But the responsibility passes beyond us, and rests on every man who has to take part in the discussion and the decision on this bill. Every man approaches the discussion under the most solemn obligation to raise the

level of his vision and extend its scope in proportion to the greatness of the matter in hand. The working of our constitutional government is itself on its trial; for I do not believe there ever was a time when the wheels of legislative machinery were set in motion under conditions of peace and order and constitutional regularity, to deal with a question greater and more profound. And more especially, sir, is the credit and fame of this great assembly involved; this assembly, which has inherited through many ages the accumulated honours of brilliant triumphs, of peaceful but courageous legislation, is now called upon to address itself to a task which would indeed have demanded all the best energies of the very best among your fathers and ancestors. I believe it will prove to be worthy of the task. Should it fail, even the fame of the House of Commons will suffer disparagement; should it succeed, even that fame, I venture to say, will receive no small, no insensible addition . . .'

Mr. Disraeli emphatically declared that the opinion of the opposition remained unchanged; they still believed that disestablishment was a political error, and that disendowment, especially when accompanied by secularisation, was mere and sheer confiscation. He said that under ordinary circumstances he should have opposed the introduction of the bill; but that looking to the verdict of the country at the general election, which he interpreted to mean that Mr. Gladstone should have an opportunity of dealing with the question of the Irish church, he thought that the premier ought not to be precluded from submitting his policy to the House, and he therefore advised his friends not to oppose the motion for the introduction of the measure; but he asked for a delay of three weeks before the second reading. This delay Mr. Gladstone declined to concede; and it was ultimately agreed that the second reading should be proposed on the 18th of March.

Perhaps an abler and more eloquent debate never was carried on in the House of Commons than that on the second reading of this measure. Not to mention speakers of less importance

who took part in it, there was Mr. Disraeli, who moved that the bill should be read that day six months, and who, though of course aware that he was playing a losing game, delivered one of the most forcible speeches he ever pronounced in the House of Commons. On the same side Dr. Ball spoke with the volubility for which his countrymen are remarkable, and with an ability which threw into the shade all the able efforts he had previously made. Mr. Miall delivered his views on the other side with the authority which his long and consistent advocacy of the change now about to be effected gave him, and was listened to by all parties with a respectful attention seldom accorded by the House to one known as a strong partisan. Mr. Bright gave the measure the support of his high reputation and splendid eloquence. The interest he took in the question made him surpass himself, and the conclusion of his speech, in which he claimed for the bill before the House the support of the Supreme Being, as to a measure which was in accordance with His glorious attributes of truth, justice, and mercy, was delivered with a manifest earnestness and sincerity which made perhaps as profound an impression as anything that ever was uttered within the walls of parliament. He was followed by an antagonist in every way worthy of him—Sir Roundell Palmer, whose conscientious conviction on this question had prevented him from joining a ministry the political views of which were in other respects in harmony with his own opinions, and had caused him to decline the chancellorship and a peerage, to which the services he had rendered to the liberal party had given him an undeniable claim. He commanded the attention to which his high character and the noble sacrifice he had made entitled him no less than the force and eloquence with which he urged his opinions. Admitting the existence of the discontent, he denied that the remedy proposed for it by the government was the right one. Admitting that the existence of the established church in Ireland was a grievance, he argued that the grievance might be removed

without confiscation. He was answered with not unequal eloquence by the solicitor-general, Sir J. Coleridge, who, however, after a brief and respectful reply to the argument of Sir R. Palmer, applied himself to the evidently more congenial task of pointing out the necessity that existed for the measure, and the advantages it was calculated to produce. The case for the bill was ingeniously and ably put by Mr. Lowe, the chancellor of the exchequer, who met the powerful argument of Sir R. Palmer by asking the House if they would consent to disestablish the Irish church and to leave it in possession of 16,000,000*l.* worth of property without connection with the state, and without check even from the ecclesiastical courts. He urged that the effect of such a settlement would be to found a theocracy of tremendous power—a fresh element of anarchy in Ireland. Replying to some arguments which Dr. Ball had urged against voluntaryism, he said that if they wanted to see the voluntary system in operation, it might be seen working most effectually in Ireland. There was to be seen the spectacle of the state church on the one side, and the nation on the other. There the state church was not the national church, and the national church not the state church. Whatever religious life existed in Ireland was to be found where the voluntary system prevailed, while coldness and apathy existed in the richly-endowed districts of Ireland. It was said that the question at issue was a religious one, and that the church was 'a bulwark against popery.' But it was no part of the duty of the government to raise bulwarks against any religion. Mr. Walpole spoke amidst the attention that a high and just reputation combined with great amiability is sure to command in the House of Commons, and thus summed up his objections to the measure: 'It will, for the first time in our history, destroy the securities hitherto taken by the state for the extension of the ordinances of religion to all parts of the country, and divert the funds devoted to that purpose to other purposes for which they were never intended. It will be the first step towards

ecclesiastical communism. It will unsettle the laws of ecclesiastical property in England and Scotland, and perhaps too of all other kinds of property, but especially of corporation property. It will overthrow a solemn compact between two independent legislatures. It will impede religious progress and stir up endless discord in Ireland.' But of all the speeches against the bill, decidedly the ablest and the most eloquent was that which was delivered by Mr. Gathorne Hardy towards the close of the long debate, and it was received by the party which he represented with applause far louder and more rapturous than had been bestowed on the colder and more argumentative address of their leader. He could discover no reason for this attack on the Irish church but jealousy like that which animated Haman. He denied that the church was a badge of conquest; he rather regarded it as an imperial light, as a recognition by the executive of the superior tenderness of the Almighty, as a token of the Protestantism of the sovereign, as a keeping alive in the dark places of Ireland the lamp of the reformation. He maintained that the bill instead of restoring peace and concord in Ireland would revive agitation and increase discontent. He ran rapidly over the chief features of the disendowment scheme, in order to show that they would fail to soften the irritation of those who would feel themselves specially aggrieved by the measure. He said that the gift of churches and glebes called for no gratitude. The purchase of the tithe rent-charge was a puzzle, the treatment of Maynooth a mockery, the church body a delusion, the proposed disposal of the surplus for the foundation of new religious endowments, and their seizure for imperial purposes, both violations of the pledges of last year. He ended by drawing a highly-coloured picture of the condition of Ireland, in which he represented the institutions of the country as satisfactory, freedom complete, law as justly administered as in England; but the people discontented without any real cause, sympathising with crime, and influenced, not for good, by the priesthood. He concluded, amidst

the loud cheering of the opposition, by insisting that an interval of peace and industry, and not a destructive measure such as that which was now brought forward—a measure wrong in the sight of God and opposed to the interests of the empire—was the real panacea for the evils under which Ireland was suffering.

It was close on one o'clock on the fourth evening of the debate that Mr. Gladstone at length rose to make his reply. He began it by remarking that Mr. Hardy had shown his fitness for a task which Burke had disclaimed—that of drawing an indictment against a whole nation. Yet even in a picture of the Irish people so unjust as to amount to a libel, serious evils were admitted, for which Mr. Hardy had no remedy. But the government, recognising the existence of an Irish question, the result of years of previous misgovernment, had a remedy which they proposed of necessity piecemeal. He passed over the comments that had been made on the details of the bill as being irrelevant to the question of the second reading. Only he intimated that the payment of the Maynooth grant and the *regium donum* out of the church property were open questions. Running over the four nights' debate he pointed out that no rival plan had been proposed in the place of that brought forward by the government. The proposals of the commission had been entirely thrown aside, and the opposition had either no plan at all, or else the old plan of levelling up. The only plan that had been put forward was that of Sir Roundell Palmer—disestablishment with little or no disendowment. This plan Mr. Gladstone discussed at considerable length. He said, in the course of his argument on it, that he differed altogether from the ideas of church property on which it was founded. When property had been given for purposes that had not been attained and could not be attained, it was the duty of the legislature to see that it was not wasted, and when it became mischievous, to take it away. But he took a much larger view of church trusts, holding that this property had been given for the general benefit of the nation.

The House divided about twenty minutes past two o'clock, when the numbers were:

For the second reading	368
Against	250
Majority for the government	118

These numbers showed how signal was the victory which the new administration had won on the appeal that had been made to the country. But the numerical superiority only indicated very imperfectly the gain on the liberal side. The introduction of a great measure had restored its party discipline, and had changed Mr. Bouverie's 'rabble' into a disciplined force.

A late commencement of the session, and an early Easter, somewhat retarded the general legislation of the House of Commons. There were a great number of bills, but they were only in the bud. Many of these were government measures, multitudinous poor-law bills, which Mr. Goschen was trying to pass; an endowed-schools bill, which Mr. Forster was striving with all his might to push forward; the mutiny bills urgently demanding renewal; a university-tests bill promoted vigorously, though with small chance of success during this session, by Mr. Coleridge; the bankruptcy bill, so often brought forward by different administrations, and still likely to be deferred; the army and navy estimates all in arrear. In addition to this, notwithstanding the largeness of the majority on the second reading of the Irish-church bill, it was likely that the discussion on that measure in committee would be so prolonged as almost to monopolise the government nights of the session; and withal there was Ireland still so agitated by Fenianism as to render it not improbable that another coercion bill would have to be passed. Such were the prospects with which the houses of parliament returned to their work after the Easter vacation.

The reception of Mr. Lowe's budget on the 8th of April formed a very striking contrast to that which had been accorded to those of Messrs. Gladstone and Disraeli when those

gentlemen filled the office of chancellor of the exchequer. There was no stir, no crowding either in the House, or the galleries, or the approaches; no eager curiosity to hear the financial statement. Nevertheless, seldom has a chancellor of the exchequer produced a budget of a more satisfactory character. Considerable reductions, chiefly in the military and naval departments, enabled the chancellor of the exchequer to pay all the expenses of the past year, including the balance of the amount due on account of the Abyssinian war—which it now appeared had cost the country from first to last 9,000,000*l.*—and to retain a surplus of 32,000*l.* By improvements in the manner of collecting the taxes and by changes in the time of collecting them this year, he hoped to add 3,350,000*l.*, thus raising the surplus to 3,382,000*l.* The change in the time of collecting the taxes caused some discontent, which was allayed by the removal of a penny from the income tax, the abolition of a shilling duty left on corn when the protective duties were taken off, the abolition of the fire insurance duty, and the repeal of some of the assessed taxes. It was announced that these financial operations would produce an ultimate remission of taxation to the amount of 3,060,000*l.*, of which 2,940,000*l.* would be taken during the present year.

It does not fall within the province of this work to follow the fortunes of the Irish-church bill through committee, or to relate the attempts, successful or unsuccessful, that were made to amend it. The bill went forward more rapidly than could have been expected considering the magnitude of the changes it wrought, and the hostility with which it was regarded both in and out of parliament. This was partly due to the circumstance that the word had been given to the members of the ministerial side to leave the task of answering the speeches against the bill to ministers. The consequence was that the attempts made to talk against time were foiled as much by the silence of the ministerialists as by the hopelessness of defeating the measure, and the manifest inutility of prolonging the re-

sistance made to it. There was little reason to wish for delay, and those who wished for it without reason soon talked themselves out. Thus on the last day of May the question of the third reading of the measure was brought forward, and after a dreary debate the House divided at one o'clock, when the numbers were:

For the third reading	361
Against	247
Majority for ministers	114

And now came the question, so often asked with regard to many previous measures, what will the lords do with the bill? It was well known that if the members of the upper house had felt themselves fully at liberty to vote according to their wishes, it would have been rejected in that assembly by a majority almost as great as that by which it was carried in the lower House. But the peers had so often experienced the evil results of setting themselves against the clearly-pronounced wishes of the people, that it was commonly expected that the more prudent of them would yield at once with a good grace instead of yielding to compulsion at some future time, and would pass a bill which had come up from the commons by a majority that rendered resistance to the popular will evidently hopeless. Nevertheless there was a strong party in the upper house determined at any risk to vote against a measure which they regarded as a destructive inroad on the constitution; and it was known that they would be encouraged in their resistance to it by the veteran leader of the conservative party, who, though enfeebled by age and illness, was ready to employ the influence which his reputation, his talents, and his position gave him, in making a last fight against a measure which he regarded with abhorrence. The discussions in the House of Lords were sure to derive additional interest and animation from the circumstance that the Irish prelates who had seats in the House, were likely to take an earnest part in the debates

on a measure which involved their political extinction. The English prelates, too, could hardly be silent with regard to a change which so strongly affected the sister church, and must be very displeasing to their most reverend and right reverend brethren, whose status it lowered, and whose interests it affected in various ways. The bill was read a first time as a matter of course. The question of the second reading was proposed in a very full house on Monday, June the 14th. The ministers themselves seemed to bring forward with reluctance a measure excluding some of their colleagues from the seats they occupied in the House. Lord Granville, pale, agitated, and nervous, performed the work of explaining its nature with a pain he could not conceal. His colleagues by their countenances and attitudes seemed to show that they shared the feelings of their leader. The archbishop of Canterbury expressed his opinion on the question with a dignity and moderation that did honour to his high place. He said: 'The episcopal bench intend in this crisis to do what they consider in their consciences to be wisest and best; agreeing neither with those who urge them to accept the measure as it stands, nor with those who advise them to reject it without consideration. I was glad when I heard the hope held out to us that any amendments made by your lordships would be seriously considered by the government and the House of Commons. The curse of Ireland has been the constant religious and political agitation on which the voluntary system subsists, and it is my earnest desire not to encourage another agitation of the sort in that country. Your lordships have been told, that if you give the bill a second reading, you will only show yourselves powerless as a branch of the legislature; but the men who say that are the very persons whose action would reduce you to powerlessness. I, in common with the other members of the episcopal bench, am sincerely attached to the Irish church. We have the same truths at heart, and we desire the union that exists between it and the English church to be continued, because we feel that

the blow that falls on the Irish church also falls on ourselves. Therefore, although we do not approve of the bill in its present shape, we desire that it may be fairly considered, and, if possible, so altered and amended as to be converted into a good measure.'

In the course of this debate Lord Derby addressed the house in which he had so long exercised unrivalled influence, and of which he had been so conspicuous an ornament. Those who most differed from his opinions could not refuse the homage of their admiration to the talents, the consistency, and the earnestness of the veteran statesman as he protested against a measure which seemed to him fraught with certain destruction to the highest and holiest interests of his country. 'My lords,' he said, after having lifted up against the measure the feeble remnants of a voice which once rang through that hall,—'my lords, I am an old man, and, like many of your lordships, past the allotted span of threescore years and ten. My official life is at an end, my political life is nearly closed, and in the course of nature my natural life cannot be long.' He thus concluded his denunciation of the bill: 'If it be for the last time that I have the honour of addressing your lordships, I declare that it will be to my dying day a satisfaction that I have been able to lift up my voice against the adoption of a measure the political impolicy of which is equalled only by its moral iniquity.' This was the last speech that the great earl delivered. His work was done; all that for which he had so long fought was passing away; the democratic deluge he had so long apprehended had entered. He lived to witness the passing of the bill for the disestablishment of the Irish church, but not to watch the operation of the dreaded measure. He died on the 23rd of October, in the 72nd year of his age.

The discussion was carried on with that ability which, on nights of great debate, generally distinguishes the oratory of the House of Lords. The division took place at three o'clock on the morning of June 19th in the very fullest house that ever

assembled, there being no fewer three hundred and twenty-five peers who recorded their votes personally, besides eighteen who paired. The two English archbishops stood near the throne, and looked on, while the division was taking place. The archbishop of Dublin, with thirteen English and two Irish bishops, voted against it. One prelate alone, the bishop of St. David's, went with the government. Bishop Wilberforce was prevented by a mistake from going with him. When the numbers were reckoned, they were found to be:

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So far the measure was safe; but it still had to pass through a committee, the majority of whose members regarded it with a disfavour bordering on detestation. A preliminary debate took place on the question of concurrent endowment, led off by Earl Grey, who strongly condemned the voluntary system, and contended that the Roman Catholics and the Presbyterians should be endowed out of the revenues of the Irish establishment; and in order to carry out his views, proposed the postponement of the consideration of the preamble; but though supported by the bishops of Oxford and St. David's, he withdrew his motion in deference to a very generally-expressed opinion against it. Then the bill went into committee. It was there laboriously considered and freely amended; seldom, perhaps never, have the lords expended more pains on any measure than on this; and it must be acknowledged that the government showed every disposition to conciliate them, and even to encourage them to alter the bill with a view to its substantial improvement. On the morning of July 7th it passed through the committee, who, in the opinion of the archbishop of Canterbury, had made 'a good bill of it.' Others thought they had greatly injured its efficiency. Numerous amendments had been

introduced, giving, or at least designed to give, better terms to the disestablished and disendowed church, and the question of the disposal of the surplus revenues of that church was relegated to a future session. Of course it was not expected that the government and the House of Commons would accept all the amendments that had been introduced into the measure; and on the other hand it could hardly be supposed that the lords would have made them without intending to maintain many of them.

While the fate of the bill was still in suspense, the lords again displayed that spirit of exaggerated conservatism which they had manifested on so many occasions, and which tended to put them more and more out of harmony with the spirit of the age and the demands of the country. Earl Russell had introduced a bill for legalising life-peerages. It had passed through committee, and was brought forward for the third reading. Lord Malmesbury thereupon moved an amendment, that it should be read a third time that day three months, which was carried by a majority of twenty-nine. The rejection of this measure coming at such a crisis tended to increase the unpopularity of the peers, and to aggravate the gravity of the situation by cutting off all hope of such a strengthening of the liberal element in the House of Lords as might enable the government to carry its measures without serious mutilation.

The third reading of the Irish-church bill came before the House of Lords on the 12th of July. Lord Clancarty proposed that it should be read a third time that day three months, but withdrew his motion at the instance of Lord Derby, who urged that it would be better to throw on the House of Commons the responsibility of rejecting the 'reasonable amendments' which their lordships had made in the bill. Some important changes were effected in it. A motion of Lord Devon's, setting aside an amendment in virtue of which the Irish bishops were to retain their seats in the House during their lives, was carried by 108 to 82 votes. A proviso proposed by Lord Stanhope, the object

of which was to purchase residences and glebe-houses for the archbishops, bishops, and clergy of the Roman-Catholic church and for the ministers of the Presbyterian body, was supported by Lords Houghton, Russell, and Westbury; but though opposed on behalf of the Catholics by Lord Granard, and on behalf of the Government by Lord Granville, it was carried by 121 to 114. The bill then passed; Lord Redesdale handing in a protest from Lord Derby.

While the struggle was going on in the House of Lords the liberal party out of doors remained judiciously quiet, only intimating their wish that the bill should pass unchanged in very measured language; but no sooner was the struggle in the upper House over than they began to agitate the country strongly in favour of the bill as it originally stood. At Manchester the executive committee of the National Reform Union held a meeting under the presidency of Mr. George Wilson, the veteran chairman of the Anti-Corn-law League, at which it was resolved that all the branches of the union should be invited to meet for the purpose of passing resolutions and sending up petitions against the amendments made by the House of Lords. At Bradford an open-air meeting, said to have been attended by between 10,000 and 15,000 persons, was called by the mayor in compliance with a requisition presented to him. Large and important meetings were held at Leeds, Sheffield, Edinburgh, and a great number of other towns in all parts of the kingdom.

On the evening of the 15th of July Mr. Gladstone explained the course which the government proposed to take with respect to the lords' amendments. He stated that he intended to restore the preamble to its original form, and retain the date that was first fixed for bringing the bill into operation. With regard to the third amendment, relating to annuities to curates, he should propose to agree to some modification. The fourth, which related to a tax on ecclesiastical incomes, he should propose to disagree with. The fifth, which had been inserted for the protection of annuitants, he should propose to accept with

amendments. The sixth, which related to the fourteen years' commutation, as it might be called, he should propose to disagree with; but he should bring forward an addition to the clause as amended by the House of Lords, the nature of which he should explain at the proper time. The seventh, which reserved the conditions of payments for the glebe-houses, &c., he should move to disagree with. The tenth, which related to the disposal of the residuary surplus dependent on the preamble, he should also move to disagree with; but he should propose to insert words which would secure to parliament the control over the surplus in the interval of its being realised. Lastly, he should move that the clause providing for what was called 'concurrent endowment' should be struck out. He afterwards explained that in disagreeing with the amendment relating to the Ulster glebes, he should propose to agree to an amendment offering 500,000*l.* to the church body in lieu of all private benefactions; and he explained the nature of the proviso he intended to move in order to secure to parliament a control over the surplus during the interval of its being realised. There were three divisions in the course of the evening, in all of which the government proposals were sustained by large majorities. Other motions made by Mr. Gladstone were adopted without a division, with the exception of a few modifications, which he consented to make in compliance with the representations of Sir R. Palmer and others. The further consideration of the lords' amendments was adjourned.

Meanwhile the agitation out of doors was industriously kept up. Deputations from the various places where meetings had been held waiting on Mr. Gladstone with promises of support and strong exhortations to resist the amendments of the lords, were assured by him that the government would stand by their engagements, and maintain the principles of the bill, but would at the same time give due consideration to all that could be urged in favour of the amendments that had been made in it. Meetings continued to be held in London and in most of the

large towns of the empire for the double purpose of inducing the government to insist and the lords to yield.

On the 16th of July the discussion was resumed and concluded. There were two divisions. In the first the amendment relating to the Ulster glebes was rejected by a majority of 104. Then a long debate ensued on the question of the appropriation of the surplus; a part of the ministerial plan which gave rise to more objections than any other. Many of the supporters of the government pleaded for its being reserved for further consideration, and suggested other appropriations of the money. On a division, the original plan was maintained by a majority of seventy-one; and as this majority, though large, was smaller than any which the government had hitherto obtained, the result was received with loud cheering not only from the opposition but from some of the ministerial benches. Another proposal having been agreed to, a committee composed of the principal members of the government was nominated to draw up the reasons of the House for their dissent from the lord's amendments.

The bill came back into the upper House on the evening of the 20th of July. Lord Granville, whose duty it was to introduce the matter, endeavoured to propitiate their lordships by the studied moderation of his tone. The debate, however, was long and warm. Earl Grey attacked the government with more than his wonted vehemence. Earl Russell, though on the whole supporting them, spoke with some acerbity. Lord Shaftesbury, after announcing that he intended to vote with ministers, in order to prevent worse consequences, denounced the bill as the most violent and revolutionary measure ever submitted to parliament since the Reformation. The Duke of Argyll began by promising to abstain from irritating remarks, but forgot his promise before he concluded his speech. The lord chancellor spoke with a warmth and asperity that strongly contrasted with his usually mild demeanour; and the violence of the discussion culminated in a speech from Earl Winchilsea, who

talked rampant nonsense till he was pulled down by some of his friends. The House had not recovered from its excitement when the division took place, by which the amendments made in the preamble by the lords and disagreed with by the commons were maintained by a majority of seventy-eight. Lord Granville at once moved the adjournment of the debate, to allow him an opportunity of consulting his colleagues in reference to the course they would pursue in consequence of this decision, but two days after, he announced that a conference had taken place between Lord Cairns and himself, at which a compromise had been effected. In virtue of this understanding it was agreed that the bill should come into operation, as originally intended, on the 1st of January 1871; and some other slight alterations were made, rather calculated to save the honour of the House of Lords than to alter the character of the measure or benefit the Irish church. The proposed compromise was willingly accepted by the opponents of the measure, who were weary of an opposition that was evidently hopeless, and glad to escape the responsibility which the rejection of such a bill would have involved. The Earl of Bandon and the Bishop of Tuam delivered a formal testimony against the bill in the name of the Protestants of Ireland; but it was now safe, and all that remained to be done was, for the commons to give their formal sanction to the compromise which the government had effected. This they did on the evening of the 23rd of July. Mr. Gladstone explained the nature and effect of the changes that had been made in the measure, the chief of which was the commutation, the effect of which would be to throw an additional charge of a quarter of a million on the fund to be placed at the disposal of the commissioners. He congratulated the house on the satisfactory character of the settlement; praised the moderation and ability with which the debates had been conducted on both sides of the house; eulogised Lords Granville and Cairns for the manner in which they had negotiated the compromise; and concluded by expressing an earnest hope that the now dis-

established church would develop qualities which it had not displayed in the days of its establishment, that a new career would open before her, and that God would speed her forward in the fulfilment of her high mission. Sir Roundell Palmer expressed his satisfaction that the question was at last settled. Mr. Disraeli silenced the murmurs of his supporters by declaring that the compromise was a wise, well-considered, and conciliatory arrangement. On the 26th of July the royal assent was given, and the bill became law.

The political storm was followed by a political calm. The energy of parliament, so long kept on the stretch, seemed at once to collapse. Mr. Gladstone's health gave way. He was obliged to absent himself for some time from the sittings of the House, and came back looking fearfully ill, and scarcely equal to the task of making a short explanation. Much necessary business that still remained to be done was pressed forward as rapidly as possible, and several measures of no small value were passed. The assessed rating act, which did away a grievance irritating to thousands, was not seriously opposed, even by those members of the conservative party who the year before had regarded it as a most objectionable measure. The bankruptcy question, which had so often been brought forward, was at length settled in a manner calculated to promote the interests of the honest trader. The abolition of imprisonment for debt, coupled with a retention of imprisonment for fraud, so often proposed, was now effected. The endowed-schools bill, the vanguard of a larger measure of education, received from both houses a candid and careful consideration, with an evident desire on all sides to make it a really good act, so that the large resources of the institutions it was designed to reform might be more widely available for the purposes to which they had been consecrated. A cattle-disease bill, and the repeal of the fire-insurance duties, two highly useful measures, were also carried. Thus the first parliament elected after that great extension of the franchise, which had been regarded with such alarm, and which the head

of the ministry under whose auspices it was carried, described as a leap in the dark, had laboured soberly, diligently, wisely; and had certainly not shown the slightest tendency to favour that partial legislation for the working classes which many persons had predicted would be the inevitable consequence of giving them the suffrage.

Soon after the prorogation of parliament, it was announced that, preparatory to the approaching disestablishment of the Irish church, a synod would be summoned, to be composed of clergy and laity in equal numbers, which was to determine what the future constitution of that communion should be. This announcement was hailed with general satisfaction; and England as well as Ireland watched with interest the manner in which this body attempted to deal with the very difficult and delicate question referred to its consideration, which was, in fact, nothing less than the reconstitution of the Irish episcopal church.

Thus we see that the work of legislative progress, which had been suspended during the administration of Lord Palmerston and the party struggles that had ensued on his decease, was now resumed and vigorously carried forward. This was due partly to the changes which the reform bill of 1867 had effected, partly to the character of the prime-minister and some of his colleagues; but in some degree also to causes which lay deeper. The course of political legislation may be compared to that of a river; now rushing rapidly forward, now almost stagnating in a lake; now resuming its impetuous progress, and now sluggishly meandering through the plain. Thus the reforming energy of Earl Grey was followed by the polite *insouciance* of Lord Melbourne; succeeded by the more laborious and painstaking administrations of Peel, Russell, and Aberdeen; followed in their turn by the 'rest-and-be-thankful' liberalism of Lord Palmerston, which paved the way for the energetic activity of the Gladstone cabinet.

It was well-known to be the intention of ministers to follow

up their Irish-church act by another measure dealing with the Irish land-question, and there was a general anxiety to learn the principles on which they would attempt to solve a problem that seemed to be even more difficult and delicate than that with which they had so firmly and successfully grappled in the preceding session. Of all the members of the government, Mr. Bright was the one who was supposed to have studied this question most deeply, and whose competence to deal with it was most widely acknowledged both in England and Ireland. When, therefore, it was announced that he was about to address his constituents early in this year, it was supposed that his speech would contain a programme of the general principles on which the government measure would be based; and the desire to hear him, which his oratorical fame inspired, was increased by the expectation that the speech would not so much be an address to the men of Birmingham as a manifesto of the policy of the government with regard to the most important question of the coming session. And this anticipation was not disappointed. After referring to the Irish-church act of the last session, he thus spoke on the Irish land-question:

'There may be, and there seems to be, a general opinion that there is another grievance; an Irish grievance, but not a Catholic grievance, which affects the north the same as the south—a cry from the whole of Ireland that the government and the parliament should do something to place the social condition of the country in a more satisfactory state than it has hitherto been. Now this land-question is a very awkward question. I have often travelled along a road and seen a hill a mile off that looked very steep, and I wished I was on the other side of it; but in coming to the foot of the hill the slope appeared much more gradual, and I got over it without the difficulty I had anticipated. The Irish land-question is not at all that sort of question. It has looked to me a difficult question for twenty years; for during all that time I have had it before me, and I have considered it; and I am, I will say if

you like, modest enough to confess that when I get nearer the question, and endeavour to discover how it is to be dealt with, it appears to me steeper and more difficult than ever it did before.

'What are the circumstances of Ireland, as they may be stated in a sentence or two? The land of that great island is, as you know, in the hands of very few proprietors. I suppose half the population of Ireland are cultivators of the soil; but unfortunately they are what are called tenants at will. The owners for generations past, with sundry exceptions which need not be mentioned, have done nothing for the cultivation of the soil. They have let the land at a given rent, and twice a year at least they have received the rent; and that is the chief part of the duty they have performed as regards their land. On the other hand, the tenants have done very little compared with what they might have done, though quite as much as could be expected from people who had no security for anything they might do. Thus the industry, the fortune, the home, the life itself of the cultivating population have been at the mercy of the owner of the land and of his agents who had the management of his property. And there is another point—the owners are not the same people as the occupiers. I think that Mr. Huxley, who is a great authority, denies altogether—and I have no wish to dispute what he says—that there is any difference of race between the people of Ireland and the people of England. I hope that is true. I have always been of opinion that if there were any difference of race, the difference of condition arises ten thousand times more from a difference of treatment, from a difference of politics and law, than from any difference of race. But the occupiers and owners mostly differ very much also in religion; and although there is no reason why a Protestant landowner and a Catholic tenant, or a Catholic landowner and a protestant tenant, might not be the best friends, yet, when we have had a perpetual war for two hundred years in Ireland on this very question of Protestantism and Catho-

licism, you may be quite sure that that has done something to poison the relations between the owner and the occupier of the soil. Then this proprietary right in Ireland has its origin mainly in confiscation, and has been created and was only to be justified by conquest. And in addition to the original evil, the proprietors had not sense enough to see that that evil was sufficient for them, but they added to it a hundred years of the most odious cruelty and persecution during the existence of the penal laws. Therefore the original grievance was made ten times more bitter than it would otherwise have been by the persistent folly of the proprietary class, working as they did through a corrupt parliament in Ireland, and also through the governing power in Great Britain.

'Now in Ireland, as I daresay most of you know, land is not only the great industry, but, with some exceptions in the north of Ireland, it is almost the only industry of the country, and there has been an excessive competition for it; and the struggle for life and the means of living has placed the occupier almost at the mercy of the proprietor of the soil. Thus we have gone on through suspicion and hatred and wrong, and a social war has been waged in some parts of the bitterest and most painful character; and at last parliament is called in, not merely to give any kind of right or justice to the tenants themselves, but it may be to secure the interests and the property of the proprietors of the land. I do not know myself whether, if I were an Irishman, I should be more anxious for legislation as a tenant than I should be for legislation as a landlord. I think it absolutely necessary for the united kingdom that we should, if possible, put an end to the reign of discord in Ireland, and take away from us the disgrace of maintaining order by an armed force of police and military, I suppose seldom falling lower than 30,000 men. I consider this Irish land-question one of the greatest and most difficult that was ever considered by an administrator, or that ever was submitted to a parliament.

'My views on it have been explained in this hall in past times; and it will not be necessary, nor would it be right, for me to go into any details with regard to it, when probably before the end of next month, whatever propositions the government may submit to the House of Commons will be fully and freely explained to all the people of the three kingdoms. But if I might say a word to people who are apt to criticise very much everything which a government does—I do not ask them to approve beforehand, but I ask them merely to give to the propositions, whatsoever they may be, that same solemn and conscientious consideration which I believe these propositions have received, and will receive, from the members of the government. This is not a question for party. I have no objection to as much party as you like when the time is fitting for it; but under the present condition of Ireland, I should say that a party fight was an unpatriotic fight. I say that it is not a question for class and party contest; it is a question for conscientious patriotism; and every man should consider it as though the prosperity, the peace, and the unity of the empire depended on its wise solution. I have often spoken upon this Irish question here and elsewhere. I blamed the leaders of parties in the House of Commons three years ago. Four years ago nearly, when the habeas-corpus act was suspended—I think in 1866—I blamed Mr. Gladstone, then the leader in the House of Commons of the ministry of Lord Russell; I blamed Mr. Disraeli, leading the opposition, because they did not, in some way or other, bring before the House propositions which should settle in some way what is understood to be the Irish question. But I knew then that it could not be dealt with fairly by an unreformed parliament. I laboured, as you know, much for reform; for I had great faith in a wider franchise and a freer representation. The Irish difficulty was to me one of that complicated and gigantic character that could never be dealt with by a class; it seemed to me to demand the will, and the sense of justice, and the power, which dwell only in a nation, for properly disposing of it.

'And now, when to a large extent the nation is called in when every householder in every borough has a vote for his representative in parliament, I feel—it may be that I am over-sanguine—that great results are to follow from our legislation with regard to this great question. The imperial parliament can do just as much by way of legislation for Ireland, with its hundred Irish members, as an independent Irish monarchy or an Irish republic could do, or as could be done for Ireland if Ireland were one of the states of the great confederation of the West.' (A voice; 'No.') 'Some gentleman doubts that. I am not saying that it has done it or will do it; but I say that the imperial parliament, with a hundred honest representatives for Ireland on its benches can do all this. What have we done? In conjunction with her representatives, we have already given to Ireland free churches and free schools, and I hope that before long we shall give them free land and a free vote. Ireland, as you well know, is not the most wealthy island in the world; but we can buy from her all she wishes to sell at a higher price than any other nation can give, and we can sell her all she wishes to buy at a lower price than any other nation. We may fail; but I hope not. Good efforts, and honest efforts, often succeed. We propose, then, a new conquest of Ireland, without confiscation and without blood, with only the holy weapon of a frank and generous justice, which is everywhere potent to bring together nations that have been long separated by oppression and neglect. Now from this new policy we hope for great changes in Ireland,—not that Ireland is to be made a paradise, but that Ireland shall be greatly improved. It may be—probably it is, or will seem like—the language of great exaggeration, if I quote the lines of Pope in one of the most exquisite poems in our language:

> "Then crime shall cease and ancient fraud shall fail,
> Returning Justice lift aloft her scale;
> Peace o'er the realm her olive-wand extend,
> And white-robed Innocence from heaven descend."

I say that this may appear the language of great exaggeration; but if we are able to suppress conspiracy; if we are able to banish agrarian crime; if we can unbar the prison doors; if we can reduce all excess of military force; if we can make Ireland as tranquil as England and Scotland now are,—then at least, I think, we may have done something to justify the wisdom and the statesmanship of our time.'

While the condition-of-Ireland question was thus at last receiving a full and enlightened attention, the condition-of-England question was demanding it no less imperatively. That pauperism, which the new poor-law seemed for the moment to have mastered, had for some time past been growing up again; and at the beginning of this year its increase in all parts of the kingdom, and especially in London, had become so portentous as to demand the careful and immediate attention of the government and the legislature. Returns made to the House of Commons, giving a 'comparative statement of the number of paupers of all classes (except lunatic paupers in asylums, and vagrants) in receipt of relief on the last day in each week,' showed that the number of persons in receipt of relief in England and Wales, from the first week in November, 1868, to the corresponding week in November, 1869, had risen from 936,680 to 955,483. This increase was entirely in the number of out-door paupers, that of in-door paupers having slightly diminished, and was still going on. In other words, about five per cent. of the population of England was dependent upon the compulsory contributions of the rest; and there was good reason to fear that the proportion would soon become larger. Such a state of things demanded an investigation of its causes, and an endeavour to remove them. One remedy was obvious enough, and had often been strongly pressed—the remedy of emigration. It would transfer that labour which could not find employment in England to colonies in which it was greatly needed. But there was a serious difficulty in the way of its application. Many of those who were reduced by the want of

employment to the condition of paupers were accustomed to a kind of labour not required in the colonies. A Manchester weaver or spinner, for instance, would be a very helpless and useless being in the backwoods of Canada, or in the sheep-walks and gold-diggings of Australia; and it would be more for the interest of all parties concerned that he should wait at home for better times, than that he should be deported to a colony where he would be as helpless and dependent as in the mother country.

The second session of the newly-reformed parliament was opened on the 10th of February, by commission. The royal message announced that a proposal would be made to the legislature to amend the laws relating to the occupation and acquisition of land in Ireland, in a manner adapted to the peculiar circumstances of the country, and calculated to bring about improved relations between the classes concerned in Irish agriculture, which collectively constituted the great bulk of the nation. The message also intimated that a bill had been prepared for the enlargement, on a comprehensive scale, of the means of national education. Two such measures must necessarily occupy a large share of the time devoted to legislation; nevertheless the message announced that other measures of great importance would be introduced by the government: bills for the improvement of the constitution and procedure of the superior tribunals both of original and appellate jurisdiction; for the settlement of the question of religious tests in the universities of Oxford and Cambridge; for the extension of the incidence of rating, and for the placing of the collection of large sums raised locally for various purposes on a simple and uniform footing; for amending the laws regulating the granting of licenses for the sale of fermented and spirituous liquors; for regulating the succession of real property in case of intestacy; for amending the laws imposing certain disabilities on the members of trade-combinations, which were complained of as pressing unfairly on them; and lastly, for consolidating and improving the statutes relating to the merchant shipping.

Such was the legislative programme of the government. Probably no previous administration had proposed to deal with so large a number of difficult and important questions in a single session. Mr. Bright had illustrated the difficulty of the task they had undertaken by comparing it to the attempt to drive six omnibuses abreast of each other through Temple Bar. His colleague, Mr. Forster, had suggested that the six omnibuses might safely follow one another; but the event showed that Mr. Bright had formed a more correct estimate of the difficulty and delicacy of the task which the government had undertaken. Mr. Gladstone, too, though quite ready to face the position which he and his colleagues had created, was perfectly well aware of the formidable nature of the work before him, as least if we may judge by the promptitude with which he introduced his first measure, and that which under existing circumstances was the most important—the Irish land bill. He asked leave to bring it in on Tuesday, 15th February. An immense audience had gathered to hear his explanation of the measure, which we will give in the premier's own words, with such abridgment and condensation as the length of his remarks and the smallness of our space render necessary.

'In the first place, the bill proposes the enlargement of the power of the limited owner in regard both to lease and rate. Assistance will be given by loans of public money to occupiers disposed and able to purchase the cultivated lands now in their occupation where the landlords are willing to sell. Facilities will also be given to landlords by means of loan, to prepare waste lands for occupation, by the making of roads and the erection of necessary buildings; and to assist purchasers of reclaimed lands, upon the security of the seller and buyer, or the provision of other security of an adequate nature. These transactions will be managed by the board of works in Dublin. With regard to occupation, the new law will be administered by a court of arbitration and a civil-bill court, with an appellate tribunal consisting of two, and in case of necessity three, judges

of assize; the judges having power to reserve a case for a court for land causes in Dublin, to be composed of equity and common law judges.

'At present there are four descriptions of holdings in Ireland which I have thought it my duty to keep specially in view. The first of these is known as the Ulster custom. This custom, where it exists, the bill will convert into a law, to which the new courts will give effect. The second class of holdings are those which prevail under customs and usages other than that of Ulster; and these too are to be legalised, subject to the restriction that the tenant may claim the benefit of them as an absolute right only in cases where he is disturbed in his tenancy by the act of his landlord, if he has not been evicted for non-payment of rent, and has not sub-let or sub-divided his holding without the landlord's consent. All arrears of rent and all damages done by the tenant to the farm may be pleaded by the landlord as a set-off, and the landlord may bar the pleading of any such custom, if he chooses to give his tenant a lease for not less than thirty-one years.

'Where the buildings are not connected with any custom there will be a scale of damages for evictions. In the case of holdings above fifty pounds a year, the parties may contract themselves out of the scale of damages, on the landlord giving a thirty-one years' lease, and undertaking to execute necessary improvements.

'In cases of eviction the following will be the scale of damages: If the holding is not valued in the public valuation over 10*l.* a year, the judge may award the holder a sum not exceeding seven years' rent; between 10*l.* and 50*l.* a year, a sum not exceeding five years' rent; between 50*l.* and 100*l.* a year, a sum not exceeding three years' rent; and above 100*l.* a year, not exceeding two years' rent.

'In addition to this, the question of permanent buildings and the reclamation of land will have to be dealt with.

'For the purpose of promoting improvements, advances of

money will be authorised to landlords, to enable them to defray any charge raised against them in the way of improvement in the case of tenants retiring by an act of their own. The principle on which I propose to deal with improvements is, that they must have a rentable value and be suitable to the holdings, and the burden of proof will be laid on the landlords. In other words, improvements should be the work of the tenant, and the landlord should show that they are not necessary; and the measure will not be limited to future improvements, but will be extended to those already made. No claim will be allowed for any improvement made twenty years before the passing of the act, unless it is an improvement of the nature of a permanent building, or a reclamation of land; nor if the tenant holds under an existing lease or contract which forbids it; and in the case of past improvements the court may take into consideration the terms for which, and the terms on which, they have already been enjoyed by the tenant. No claim will be allowed in respect of improvements contrary to a future contract voluntarily entered into by the tenant, and which are not required for the due cultivation of the farm.

'As to lands under lease, a landlord may exempt his lands from being subject to any custom except the Ulster custom, provided that he agrees to give his tenant a lease for thirty-one years; but the lease must leave to the tenant at the close of that term a right to claim compensation under three heads—namely, tillages and manures, permanent buildings, and reclamation of lands.

'From the moment the bill is passed every Irishman will be absolutely responsible for every contract into which he enters. Non-payment of rent will be held as a bar to any claim on the landlord, reserving, however, discretion to the courts in certain cases. Notices to quit will have to be for twelve months instead of six, and date from the last day of the current year; and the notice must have a stamp duty of two shillings and sixpence.

'The bill also proposes to deal with the question of the county cess, which it will assimilate to the poor-rate. In every new tenancy it will have to be paid in moieties by landlord and tenant, as the poor-rate is now paid, and in every old tenancy under 4*l.* a year the occupier will be at once relieved.

'Such are the principal provisions of our bill. The government are far from believing it to be a perfect measure; and invite in thorough good faith the co-operation of all parties to make it as nearly perfect as possible; for their desire is that it should become a great gift to Ireland, and be the means of putting an end to the grievances and sufferings that have so long been associated with the tenure of land in that country. I am sanguine in the hope that it will pass, not as the triumph of a party, but as a great work of good-will for the common good of our common country, and that its result will be to diffuse the blessings of peace, order, and industry over a smiling land.'

Mr. Hardy, who in the absence of Mr. Disraeli acted as leader of the conservative party, showed every disposition to receive the measure thus placed before the House in a fair and candid spirit. He promised that the party he represented would approach the consideration of the bill with the single object of making it just, practical, and conciliatory, and he readily agreed to the proposal made by Mr. Gladstone that the question of the second reading should be fixed for the 7th of March; in thus speaking and acting he conformed to the general feeling of the House, which was decidedly in favour of a measure which grappled with the Irish difficulty in a bold and statesman-like spirit.

The debate on the second reading commenced, as had been agreed, on the 7th of March; and as there was no party struggle, it was carried on without much animation till the 11th of that month. Mr. Disraeli, who had been prevented by illness from attending the House of Commons, appeared in his place, though evidently still suffering, and spoke ably, wittily,

and moderately against the bill. At the conclusion of the debate it was read a second time without opposition.

But while the principle of the measure was favourably received, its details were jealously scrutinised. It was felt, that though the bill was intended to meet the peculiar circumstances in which Ireland was then placed, it would scarcely be possible long to withhold from the English tenant the privileges and advantages bestowed on his Irish *confrère*. Accordingly three hundred notices of amendments were given. In order to gain time for their consideration, as well as that of the other numerous and important measures that were to be submitted by the government, it was agreed, at the suggestion of the prime-minister, that morning sittings should be holden. The bill went through committee with only such alterations as the government consented to accept, and was read a first and second time in the House of Lords without opposition. Several amendments were made in committee, to which, with one exception, the government and the House of Commons agreed; and this important measure became law on the 1st of August.

The bill by which it was proposed to deal with the question of national education was introduced by Mr. Forster, to whose department the question belonged, only two days after the Irish land bill. The necessity for such a bill was great and evident. After all that had been said and done in reference to this question, two-thirds of the juvenile population of the country were still without elementary education; and the question for the consideration of the government and legislature was, how this large residue should be brought under instruction. In order that this might be effected it was necessary not only to provide new schools, but also to overcome the reluctance and indifference of parents. The explanation given by Mr. Forster of the scheme by which the government proposed to meet these objects was briefly this:

'It is our purpose to secure by enactment that there shall be efficient school provision in every district of England where it

is wanted. The districts will be the civil parishes; and having divided England into districts, steps will then be taken to ascertain the educational provision and their wants. If we find that in any district the educational facilities afford a due amount of primary secular instruction, that district will be let alone as long as it continues to be supplied with educational facilities. I now come to the condition of the schools which may be entitled to government aid. The first stipulation will be, that they should be efficient according to the standard which parliament from time to time may set up. In the second place the inspection will be no longer voluntary; and it will be required that every school shall submit to an inspection without any denominational conditions. A conscience-clause will also be attached to every school as the condition of any grant. This condition will also apply to every kind of grant, whether for building or for any other purposes. These are the broad principles on which the bill is framed; and I trust they will secure not only the approval, but the support of parties opposite. They must recollect that this conscience-clause will apply to every kind of school, whether Church of England or of any other persuasion. I now come to what many will think the most important part of the bill—compulsory provision of schools. I do not believe that any central authority can undertake to supply schools all over England; and as voluntary local efforts have failed, we must supply what is wanted by local taxation under local management, to be supplemented by a government grant, but with central supervision and inspection. For this purpose there will be a power to unite parishes together; for the requirements of the town and country districts are so different, that it is absolutely necessary to have some power of the kind; but it is not contemplated to make the area of the school unions the same as that of the poor-law unions. Next with respect to the local boards of management, who are to elect them? We have come to the conclusion that in towns the town-council will be the best agency to elect

school boards, and in the country the select vestries; but if there is no select vestry, then the vestry. With respect to parents, I will first state that we are not prepared to give up school fees; it will not be necessary nor advantageous. But there will be a power in exceedingly poor and destitute districts to set up free schools, subject to the approval of the central boards, and also to give free tickets, but with due care that they attach no social stigma. I know that the question of local rates is a very delicate matter; but I believe the money will be the best expended of all, and will eventually tend to decrease the other rates. The rate will not be a special one, but will be levied with the poor rate; and there will be a power in this bill, whenever this charge exceeds threepence in the pound, that it should be supplemented by a grant. The local boards will have a discretion either to establish fresh schools, or to assist the existing schools; but if they assist one, they must assist all, and not select any one for the bestowal of their favours. With respect to the knotty point of religious instruction, having inserted a most extensive clause, we will not interfere with the discretion of the local boards. The next question is the most difficult of all. It is, how to secure the attendance of children. The bill places before the House the principle of compulsion, the feeling in favour of which is, I believe, rapidly gaining ground; and it has already been established in the factory and short-time industrial schools. In them the plea of the value of the children's time is not admitted as valid to prevent them from being educated. The principle must be applied to all trades and manufactories alike, and will require a large army of inspectors to enforce it. To effect compulsory attendance, power will be given to school boards to frame bye-laws to compel attendance between the hours of twelve and five, unless reasonable excuse can be alleged. These bye-laws will be approved by central authority, and laid before parliament. The question of the number of attendances will be left as a detail for the local board to decide. These are the pro-

visions of the bill, and in them the government has attempted to carry out what they believe to be the duty of the central executive—to see that every child in the country has the means of education placed within its reach. Having done this they have provided that the work, as regards its details, should be done by the local authorities, under the inspection and, if need be, the compulsion of the central executive on behalf of the state. The system may be described as the education of the people's children by the people's executive, under the control and supervision of the people's representatives.'

Seldom has an important government measure been received in a more candid and conciliatory spirit than was displayed towards the bill thus explained and introduced. Mr. Dixon, who at a later stage so strongly opposed some of its provisions, expressed his gratitude to Mr. Forster for the measure, congratulated the government on their sanction of it, expressed his conviction that the country generally would support them in their endeavours to carry out its provisions, and his belief that the promise given by the speech from the throne had been fully redeemed by the introduction of the bill. At the same time he intimated objections to some of its provisions—to the year of grace, to the discretion left to school boards with regard to religious teaching, to the absence of more stringent powers for enforcing attendance, to the retention of school fees, and to the want of a provision for the establishment of a purely educational department. Mr. Mundella hailed Mr. Forster's speech with unqualified satisfaction. Mr. Cowper Temple was gratified with the spirit in which the plan was introduced. Viscount Sandon was sure that both political parties in the constituency of Liverpool, which he represented, would cordially welcome Mr. Forster's speech. Sir J. Pakington, amidst the loud assenting cheers of the conservative party, said that he had never listened to a speech with more heartfelt satisfaction. In a word, though the plan elicited one or two criticisms in the same tone as those of

Mr. Dixon, they merely detracted from the general chorus of congratulation and commendation with which the measure was received at its first introduction. It was true that a section of the ministerial party complained that the measure did not go far enough, but even they were not disposed to reject a bill providing a system of national education, and boldly grappling with the religious difficulty, which had caused the failure of so many previous attempts to legislate on the question. Meanwhile two societies had been formed representing the antagonistic views taken of the measure—the Education League and the Education Union, both striving by meetings and by other usual means of agitation to influence the public, the House of Commons, and the government, in favour of their respective views. These two bodies agreed that every child in the country should, as far as possible, be made to receive an elementary education—that state aid should be continued to existing schools, and that the conscientious religious scruples of parents should be respected. But the league proposed that schools hereafter to be erected should be supported by rates alone; the union insisted that rates should be supplemented by subscriptions and children's pence. The former was in favour of direct compulsion as a means of enforcing attendance, the latter advocated indirect compulsion. The former insisted that there should be no denominational teaching in rate supported schools, the latter recommended a general conscience clause.

The agitation carried on by these two associations had so far altered Mr. Dixon's opinions, that when the question of the second reading came on, notwithstanding the favourable manner in which he had spoken of the measure at its first introduction, he proposed an amendment embodying the views of the league, but finding the feeling of the house to be strongly against him he attempted to withdraw it. The majority, however, insisted on it being put and negatived, after which the bill was read a second time without a division.

The favourable reception the bill met with was no doubt

mainly owing to a generally felt wish that the important question with which it dealt should be settled by a fair compromise. The evident desire of the government to make it a national and not a party measure communicated itself to the majority of the members on all sides of the house, causing them to deal with it in the same spirit of candour and equity in which it had been introduced. But the chief struggle that arose was with regard to the religious teaching in the rate-supported schools. There were in fact four different parties representing four different opinions on this question. The first demanded that distinct dogmatic teaching should be allowed; the second contended for the reading of the Bible, with such comments and explanations as the teacher might think fit to give. The third contended that no comment or explanation should be permitted; the fourth insisted that the instruction should be exclusively secular. It must not, however, be supposed that the persons holding the last-mentioned view were all of them, or even most of them, hostile to religious teaching. Their contention was that the duty and responsibility of giving that instruction, or seeing that it was given, belonged to the parents, and it was desirable that they should be made to feel that this was the case, and not be led to look to others for that teaching which it was their own peculiar province and duty to impart or to superintend.

Meanwhile the necessity for doing something speedily was strongly enforced by the result of an inquiry into the extent and value of the primary education afforded in Birmingham, Leeds, Manchester, and Liverpool. In Birmingham, it was found that the number of children who ought to have been under education, that is to say, who were between the ages of three and thirteen, was 83,000, and the number of these actually being educated was only 26,000. In Leeds, out of 58,000 of school-age, only 19,000 were at school; at Manchester, out of 60,000, there were 25,000; and at Liverpool, out of 90,000 there were only 30,000. Government remained silent, desiring,

as Mr. Gladstone explained, 'to reserve to themselves the advantages of consideration for as long a time as possible, because every day multiplied the expression of opinion and feeling in the country.' At length, on the 16th of June, Mr. Gladstone broke the silence which he and his colleagues had so long maintained, and announced that they had determined in compliance with what they believed to be the opinion of the country, to adopt a motion of which Mr. Cowper Temple had given notice, excluding all catechisms and distinctive dogmatic formularies from schools founded by rates, and to place voluntary schools under the committee of council, making a maximum increase of 50 per cent. in the grants to them. On the other hand, no more grants were to be made after a certain time, to be fixed in the bill, towards the erection of new schools. On the motion of Mr. Disraeli the discussion of the measure thus amended was deferred till June 20th. The first division took place on the question of going into committee, which was carried by 421 to 60. The bill was in committee from the 24th June till the 27th July, when the report was brought up, and it received its last amendments. In its general outline it was the same measure as when presented to the committee; but it had been very carefully considered, and many important improvements made in its machinery, with the concurrence of government. The compromise adopted by ministers was maintained. The denominational system was continued but not extended. Religious inspection was withdrawn; but religious instruction was permitted, under certain regulations, on the understanding that the state was not in future to be called on to aid in paying for it; and that it was not in any case to be enforced on the child of an objecting parent.

The concessions made by the government were far from satisfying Messrs. Dixon and Miall, who expressed their disappointment when the question of the third reading was brought forward on the 22nd of July. The latter gentleman especially spoke in a very acrimonious tone, complaining that he and his

friends had been 'led through the valley of humiliation,' and quoting the proverb 'once bit, twice shy.' His complaints called up Mr. Gladstone, who thus replied: 'If my honourable friend has been bitten, by whom is it? If he has been bitten, it is only in consequence of expectations which he has himself chosen to entertain—expectations not justified by the facts. We have been thankful to have the independent and honourable support of my honourable friend, but that support ceases to be of value when accompanied by reproaches such as these. I hope my honourable friend will not continue that support to the government one moment longer than he deems it consistent with his sense of duty and right. For God's sake, sir, let him withdraw it the moment he thinks it better for the cause that he has at heart that he should do so. So long as my honourable friend thinks fit to give us his support we will co-operate with him for every purpose that we have in common; but when we think his opinions and demands exacting, when we think that he looks too much to the section of the community which he adorns, and too little to the interests of the people at large, we must then recollect that we, who have assumed the heavy responsibility of the government of this great country, must endeavour to forget the parts in the whole, and propose to ourselves no narrower object than the welfare of the empire at large.'

It was fortunate that the committee had concluded its arduous labours when the war between France and Prussia broke out. Had this event occurred at an earlier period, it must have exercised a very distracting and mischievous influence on the consideration of so complicated a measure. It was also a matter of congratulation, that as the foundations of a national system of education had now been laid, we might hope in any future war in which we might be engaged, to have the advantage of an educated soldiery—an advantage the value of which had been recently illustrated by the war between Prussia and Austria, and which was speedily

destined to receive farther and still more signal illustration in the war that had now commenced. The bill was received by the peers with a remarkable unanimity of approbation, and went through the House of Lords without any important alteration.

We are not yet sufficiently distant from the period of the passing of this great measure to be able to predict its future working with full confidence; but there can be no doubt that it is the greatest educational step in advance that has yet been taken; and though a measure of so difficult and complicated a nature will probably require many amendments, the nature of which must be determined by experience, yet it so far settles the question as to leave no room for any other measure on the subject of anything like equal magnitude and importance. In some places it has been already so successfully worked that there is scarcely a single child of the school-age who is not receiving elementary instruction. In other places little has yet been done, because the immense amount of labour thrown on the educational department has prevented it from establishing school-boards in many parts of the country, and especially in its more thinly-populated districts. But the results which have thus far attended the introduction of the act in places where it has been sufficiently tested seem to afford a promise and a guarantee of future success. It is much to be regretted that Mr. Bright was disabled by illness from assisting in the preparation of a measure, in the framing of which his aid would have been peculiarly valuable. It is probable that if he had taken part in the discussions held on it in the cabinet and the legislature, he would have introduced modifications which would have to some extent met the objections of the Birmingham party, and have prevented the agitation that afterwards arose.

A parliamentary paper obtained by Mr. Ripley, shows how much the education act has already effected. In 1870 the number of elementary (not being board) schools was 8,281; in 1871 the

number had increased to 8,798, in 1872 to 9,772; in 1873 to 10,574; and in 1874 to 11,408. In 1870 there was accommodation for 1,878,584 children; in 1874 there was accommodation for 2,626,318. The average attendance in 1870 was 1,152,389, and in 1874 it was 1,540,466. The school fees in 1870 amounted to 502,022*l.*; and in 1874 they amounted to 762,184*l.* The amount of voluntary subscriptions was 418,839*l.* in 1870, and 601,172*l.* in 1874. The government grant in 1870 amounted to 562,611*l.*, and in 1874 to 956,347*l.*

The last days of the session were marked by an earnest and well-meant effort to avert the unhappy war between France and Prussia, which brought on the former such a series of unparalleled calamities and disasters. Unhappily the two governments were far too blinded by passion to be influenced by the efforts made on our part to prevent them from rushing into this sanguinary folly.

Parliament was prorogued on the 10th of August. Much of the legislation brought forward by the government had been abandoned for want of time for its due consideration. But two measures of inestimable value—each of them of far greater importance than the whole of the legislation of parliament during the period that had elapsed between the commencement of the Palmerston and the Gladstone administrations—had been carried; and there was reason to expect that they would be followed in the next session by others of scarcely inferior magnitude and value.

In connection with this great measure for the reform of the elementary education of the country we will briefly refer to two other highly important measures of educational reform, the Endowed Schools Bill and the University Tests Bill, though the former passed in 1869 and the latter in 1871.

The former of these measures was intended to raise the character and remedy the abuses of the endowed schools of the country, which were very far from being efficient according to their number, their revenues or the intentions of those by whom

they were founded. The condition of these schools had been carefully investigated by two commissions appointed to inquire into the middle class or secondary education of the country, with a view to its improvement; the first, which was presided over by the Duke of Newcastle, dealt with the question of elementary education; the other inquired into the condition of certain public schools, such as Eton, Harrow, &c. A third commission was appointed to inquire into the condition of the very large number of schools which had not been investigated by the two previous commissions; that is to say, into the middle class and secondary schools of the country, with a view to their improvement; and it was on the report of this last mentioned commission that Mr. Forster's Endowed Schools Bill was based. This measure proposed, in the first place, to confirm and sanction an arrangement which cannot be better stated than in the words of Sir R. Palmer, who said, 'I think it now well settled that in all cases where the court (of Chancery) settles a scheme —it being a church school—it says religion shall be taught according to the principles of the Established Church, but that no children whose parents, or persons standing in the place of parents object, shall be compelled to learn any formularies or to attend the public worship of the Church of England.'

The next question which the bill dealt with related to the means by which the efficiency of the schools was to be tested. The government did not see its way to the establishment of a system of inspection over these schools because it was agreed on almost all hands that inspection should be based on the principle of payment for results, and in this case it was not the government that paid but the parents of the children. However, they proposed to establish a board which should provide for the examination of the scholars of endowed schools at least once a year. To remedy the incompetence of the masters, which in many instances was notorious, and which had been abundantly proved by evidence given before the commissioners, the government took authority by the bill to establish a board with

powers of granting certificates of competence to masters. This body was to be composed of twelve members, six of whom were to be chosen by the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, and London, and six by the government, and it was hoped that it would not only grant certificates, but act as a sort of standing council to the government in educational matters, and help to raise the character of masters generally, not only in public and endowed but also in private and proprietary schools. The bill was read a second time without a division, and then referred to a select committee in which all parties were fairly represented, and went through the House of Commons without difficulty. In the House of Lords it was deprived of much of its efficiency, but notwithstanding the changes thus made, a commission was appointed under it, through the action of which a very large number of schools have been greatly improved as places of education. And there can be little doubt that the principles on which the bill was based will in the end be adopted in dealing with the numerous and important institutions to which it applies. The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge have already taken the initiative in appointing a board of examiners and giving certificates to masters of schools.

The question which the University Tests Bill was intended to settle was one which for many years had from time to time occupied the attention and excited the strong interest of the legislature. As early as 1834, in the second session of the first reformed parliament, Mr. G. W. Wood, member for North Lancashire, moved for leave to bring in a bill for the admission of dissenters to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. Lord J. Russell spoke warmly in favour of the motion, which was supported by a large majority of the House of Commons. The attempt thus made was renewed by Mr. W. D. Christie, member for Weymouth, in 1843, and was again supported by Lord J. Russell, but was opposed by Sir R. Peel, then prime minister, with a conservative majority, and defeated. In 1848 the attention of the legislature and the country was again drawn to the

subject in consequence of the presentation of a very able memorial praying for the appointment of a royal commission of inquiry, drawn up by the Rev. Mr. Stanley, (now Dr. Stanley and Dean of Westminster), and signed by some of the most eminent members of the two institutions whose usefulness the memorialists desired to extend. This memorial was followed up in 1850 by a motion made by Mr. James Heywood, member for North Lancashire, for an inquiry, having for its object the reform of the universities of Oxford, Cambridge, and Dublin. Mr. Heywood had himself been educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, but being an unitarian had not been able to take any degree. He was, nevertheless, enthusiastically attached to his *alma mater*, and had devoted considerable time, labour, and expense to the examination of its statutes and constitution, with which few men were better acquainted. He had ascertained how greatly its funds were wasted and misapplied, and how much these venerable seats of learning needed to be reformed in order to get rid of the abuses that flourished and abounded in them, and to adapt the curriculum of their teaching to the opinions and requirements of the present time. The question thus raised excited a strong feeling on both sides, which was manifested by the aspect of the house when it was expected to be brought forward. The benches on both sides were crowded. The six university members occupied the seats usually reserved for the leaders of the opposition, thus showing their determination to offer on behalf of the venerable seats of learning which they represented an uncompromising resistance to the proposed change. Behind them were ranged a large number of members who had been educated at one or other of the universities, and who, regarding the attempt to interfere with them as almost a profanation, were prepared to do battle for them.

A very earnest and lively, not to say noisy discussion was evidently impending, when Lord J. Russell rose and stated that if Mr. Heywood would consent to withdraw his motion the go-

vernment would advise the crown to issue a royal commission, which, without dealing specially with the grievances of dissenters, would inquire into the state of the universities. Mr. Heywood, seeing that this would be the best means of promoting his object, very readily assented, and on the 18th of July, Lord J. Russell gave the following explanation of the intentions of the government. 'We propose to make such inquiries as were made with respect to the municipal corporations and the ecclesiastical bodies; and if it should, on inquiry, be thought necessary that any alteration should be made, it will afterwards be time to inquire what is the authority by which these alterations should be effected.'

The commissioners who were appointed in accordance with the pledge thus given encountered great difficulties, because they were not empowered to compel the attendance of witnesses, and consequently many of the university authorities, among whom was the Vice Chancellor of the University of Oxford, refused to give evidence. The report made under the difficulties thus occasioned was published in 1852, during the administration of Lord Derby, who, however, took no notice of it, but contented himself with distributing copies of it to those whom it chiefly concerned. But in 1854, Lord Aberdeen being then in office, a bill for the reform of the University of Oxford, based on the recommendations of the commissioners, was brought in by the government, and a memorial signed by 100 members of the House of Commons was presented to Lord J. Russell, the leader of the government in that House, requesting the introduction of clauses abolishing religious tests at matriculation and graduation in that university. Lord J. Russell, as a member of the government, felt himself unable to accede to a request, which, as an independent member he would, no doubt, have warmly supported. Mr. Heywood therefore proposed clauses to that effect, which were carried by large majorities in the commons, and which, being supported by the Earl of Derby in the upper house, were carried, but with the

addition of a rider, proposed by Lord Derby, and which provided that such degrees should not qualify those on whom they were conferred to hold university offices, which had hitherto been held exclusively by members of the Church of England. Thus Oxford, which had hitherto been behind Cambridge in this respect, was now placed in advance of the sister university. Hitherto nonconformists had been allowed to pass through Cambridge, and to undergo the examination for the B.A. degree without any test being presented to them. At Oxford, on the contrary, they were stopped at the very threshold of their university career by a test required at matriculation. The university reformers therefore began at Oxford, and by the act passed in 1854 they succeeded in abolishing not only the test at matriculation but also the test at graduation, so that students at Oxford could now take the B.A. degree; and Oxford, which had been behind Cambridge, was now in advance of her. But she was not long allowed to retain the advantage. In 1856 a bill for the further reform of the University of Cambridge was carried, which enabled nonconformists in that University to proceed to the degree of M.A. In 1863, 1864, and 1865 attempts were made to open the universities still further, by placing Oxford on the same footing as Cambridge with regard to the admission of Dissenters to the M.A. degree, and for removing the obstacles which prevented nonconformists from becoming fellows of colleges. The last of these measures had been introduced by Mr. Goschen, and the second reading was carried by a majority of sixteen, but the bill was then dropped. Mr. Coleridge next took up the question, introducing in 1866 a bill differing in words but agreeing in substance with Mr. Goschen's in 1866, which was read a second time by a considerable majority, but proceeded no further. In 1867 the bill was again brought forward, passed the House of Commons, but was rejected by the Lords. In 1868 a bill, brought forward by Mr. Bouverie in previous sessions, was amalgamated with it, but the dissolution of parliament cut short the progress of the

measure. In 1869 Mr. Coleridge, now become Sir J. D. Coleridge and Solicitor General, again introduced the bill in his private capacity, and again carried it through the House of Commons, only to see it once more rejected by the Peers. In 1871 he brought the same bill forward as a government measure in his capacity of Solicitor General. As the bill of the preceding year had been rather deferred than rejected by the Peers, the measure now introduced was, with the exception of a mere verbal alteration, an exact reprint of the bill of the last year, and therefore the Solicitor General in reintroducing it and proposing the second reading was spared the necessity of entering into any detailed explanation of its nature and its contents, and spoke very briefly. He, however, with his usual lucidity, explained the main features of the measure he had so often advocated. He stated that the bill dealt with two great subjects, the universities and the colleges. In dealing with the former it compelled that amount of religious freedom in regard to all the subjects of the Queen which the House of Commons had on previous occasions, by overwhelming majorities, declared to be just and right. In dealing with the colleges it only removed all restrictions upon their freedom of action which had been imposed from time to time by the authority of the legislature. It left them controlled by their statutes, by the feeling of their members, and by all the associations that had gathered round them. Sir J. Coleridge referred to several instances of persons of the highest merit who had been excluded from the distinctions to which they were fairly entitled by restrictions imposed not by the colleges or their founders, but by the legislature. He mentioned that this had happened to the senior wrangler of this year, who, being a Jew, had been excluded from the just and right result of his academical success. The bill simply proposed to allow the colleges, if they thought fit, to alter this state of things. An attempt was made in committee by Mr. Stevenson to throw open degrees in divinity to dissenters, and

by Mr. Fawcett to open clerical fellowships to laymen; but both these amendments were rejected. In the House of Lords the Earl of Salisbury proposed to substitute for subscription to the thirty-nine articles a new test binding those who held certain offices in colleges, "now subsisting" in the two universities, not to teach anything contrary to the teaching on the Divine authority of the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament. This amendment, though opposed by many conservative peers, and by a large majority of the bench of bishops, was carried by a majority of five; but being rejected by the Commons was not insisted on by the Lords, and so the bill passed in its original shape.

While the education bill was passing through its last stages, events of the highest interest and importance were occurring on the continent. Never, perhaps, had the state of affairs appeared more tranquil or assuring than they did at the commencement of July 1870. The English foreign minister, Lord Granville, and the French prime minister, M. Olivier, had both publicly testified that not a cloud rested on the political horizon. But this profound political calm was disturbed by the intelligence that the Prince of Hohenzollern had been put forward as a candidate for the vacant Spanish throne, with every prospect of being elected. At another time, and under other circumstances, such an announcement would not have excited any very strong feeling, but the grasping and aggressive policy of King William of Prussia and his minister Bismarck, gave to the event an importance it would not otherwise have possessed, and caused in France a degree of alarm and excitement more than commensurate with the circumstances that gave rise to it. 'What,' it was asked throughout France, 'what are our ambassadors doing at Madrid and Berlin? How is it that this intrigue has escaped their vigilance? Prussia is penetrating everywhere. She is carrying on her intrigues in Germany, Roumania, Italy, and now she is trying to penetrate

into Spain. What next?' The Duc de Gramont, interrogated on the subject, replied to his questioners in terms which indicated that if the candidature of Prince Hohenzollern were pressed, war would be declared against Prussia. On the following Wednesday the Duc de Gramont officially announced the withdrawal of the candidature of the Prince of Hohenzollern, adding, however, that the negotiations that had been set on foot with a view to obtain that withdrawal were not yet wholly terminated. A general feeling prevailed that the affair was at an end. But on the following day dispatches from Ems announced that the Prussian king had refused to see M. Benedetti, the French ambassador, who was directed by his government to require the King of Prussia, who, as head of the family of Hohenzollern, had sanctioned the prince's candidature, not only to withdraw that sanction, but to pledge himself that he would not renew it at any future time. The English government, regarding this demand as unreasonable, laboured to bring the parties to an agreement. But, unfortunately, behind the two governments were two high-spirited nations, whose passions were strongly excited. In France especially, where it was reported and believed that Benedetti had been repulsed with rudeness, the feeling was irresistible. And the consequence was, that the good offices of the English government were employed earnestly, but to no purpose. And the general feeling in England, at the outbreak of the war, was one of sympathy for Prussia, who was generally supposed to have been forced into a war, which she neither desired nor was prepared for, by the French government. This feeling was not a little strengthened by the publication in the *Times* of the draft of a treaty written by M. Benedetti in 1866, in which it was proposed, on certain conditions and under certain eventualities, that Belgium should be annexed to France, and that Prussia was to support the annexation with all her forces, she being allowed to indemnify herself by annexations which

France, in her turn, bound herself to support with all her forces. As the independence of Belgium was guaranteed by the English government, the publication of this document excited a strong feeling of indignation, which, however, was speedily allayed by the explanation that Benedetti had been the dupe of Bismarck, who, when Hanover and other German states were being annexed to the Prussian dominions, held out this bait to France, among several others of a similar character. M. Benedetti alleged, and no doubt truly, that he had written the draft of the treaty from the dictation of the astute Prussian minister, who took it for the alleged purpose of showing it to King William, while Benedetti forwarded an account of the negotiation to the French emperor, by whom it was unhesitatingly rejected.

It does not fall within the province of this history to relate how the German forces overwhelmed MacMahon at Wöerth, overthrew the empire at Sedan, beleaguered and finally captured Bazaine and his army at Metz, surrounded the French capital with a living wall, which no force and no efforts made from within the city could break through; nor how the communistic mob of Paris overthrew the empire, and after having created a new form of government embarrassed the defenders of their city from within, more seriously than their German assailants injured them from without.

While these events were being transacted the sympathies of the English people, which, as has already been mentioned, were at the commencement of the war with Prussia, were rapidly veering round to the side of that ally which had stood by us so faithfully in the Crimean war, and which had been drawn so much closer to us by the treaty which Mr. Cobden had negotiated. The English people, too, had not forgotten how Schleswig Holstein had been torn from Denmark, how Hanover and other German states had been annexed to Prussia, and, though favourable to German unity, were by no means anxious to

see a Prussianised Germany strengthened and augmented by a large portion of territory taken from conquered France. England, indeed, had no desire to take part in the struggle that was being carried on so near to her coasts, but when she saw that the emperor whom the Prussian monarch had declared to be the only person against whom he waged war was a prisoner in his hands, and France, bleeding at every pore, lying at his mercy, the English people felt that the punishment inflicted was sufficiently severe, and earnestly desired that the war might be closed by a treaty which would not be too humiliating for France. But with this feeling was mingled an apprehension that, if through any violation of the treaty engagements into which we had entered with the nations of the Continent, we should be drawn into a continental war, our soldiers might not improbably be found even less able to cope with the disciplined legions of Germany than the French troops had proved; and, therefore, while on the one hand there was a strong feeling in favour of withdrawing, as far as it was possible for us to do with honour, from all continental complications, there was also on the other hand a feeling in favour of such a measure of military reform as would make our soldiers fully equal in quality to the soldiers of any other nation.

The government had at a very early period of the struggle endeavoured to allay the alarm of the country. On the 21st of July Mr. Gladstone announced that both of the belligerent powers had given satisfactory assurances of their desire to respect the neutrality of Belgium, Holland, and Luxemburg; and on the same evening, in answer to some remarks made by Mr. Disraeli, he explained that the position assumed by the government of this country towards the two belligerents was one of strict neutrality—not an *armed* neutrality, but a *secure* neutrality, backed and sustained by adequate measures of defence. He added that, happily for this country, we had forces established which were not only of the highest efficiency

but were capable of easy and rapid extension, and that the reductions that had been made had rather increased than diminished our strength. He added that we had now an army of 89,000, and a reserve of 41,000, while in 1868 we had 87,000 regular troops and 19,000 reserve force. In the navy we had a strong system of concentrated defence that was in every way superior to the old system.

These explanations were satisfactory so far as the numbers and organisation of our naval and military forces were concerned, but they left untouched the question of their quality, respecting which, as the French troops were borne down by the advancing Germans, more and more anxiety was felt in this country, especially when it transpired that our government had entered into a treaty with the governments of France and Prussia, by which England was bound, in case of any violation of the Belgium territory by either of the belligerents, to co-operate with the other power in defence of that neutrality, without taking any other part in the war that was carried on between them. This treaty, however, was only to continue in force for one year after the conclusion of the war. It will be easily understood that a treaty which bound the English government to interfere, even to this limited extent, would be strongly disapproved by Mr. Bright, and as he was incapacitated by illness from taking any part in public affairs, and even from reading or writing a letter, he caused his resignation to be at once placed in the hands of Mr. Gladstone, who forwarded to him some explanations of the nature and objects of the treaty calculated to remove his objections, and begged him to defer his resignation, which would at that moment greatly embarrass the government. Mr. Bright accordingly left the resignation in Mr. Gladstone's hands, to be made use of when he thought fit, but with a request that it might be laid before the Queen at the earliest period that the premier might think desirable.

Meanwhile Russia was preparing to take advantage of the helpless condition of France, in order to reopen the Black Sea question. The treaty of 1856 had left her in a very humiliating position. While other European nations were at liberty to have as many vessels as they pleased in the waters that washed her southern coasts, Russia was bound by that treaty to have no more than six small ships of war. Accordingly, towards the end of October 1871, Prince Gortschakoff issued a circular addressed to the various diplomatic agents of the Russian government, repudiating, in the name of the Emperor, some of the most important stipulations of the treaty. This high-handed proceeding of the Russian government met with more opposition than had been anticipated. Lord Granville protested on behalf of England, and his representations were supported not only by the Austrian and Italian governments but by Prussia, now in the full tide of military success. Russia found that promptly as she had acted she had allowed the propitious moment to pass after the capture of Sedan, and the surrender of Metz, just as France had done a few years before after the victory of Sadowa. At all events, the Russian government listened to the remonstrances of the European powers, and agreed to submit her claim to a conference of the representatives of the great powers of Europe, to be held in London. The conference waited for some time in order to give M. Jules Favre, the French minister of foreign affairs, then shut up in Paris, an opportunity of assisting at it, but after much time spent in fruitless negotiations with the Prussian government respecting a safe conduct for him, it proceeded with its deliberations on the 26th of January 1871, without a representative of the French nation. The conference agreed to abrogate the neutralisation of the Black Sea stipulated for by the treaty of 1856, but the Porte was allowed to open the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus to the ships of friendly and allied powers whenever their presence appeared to be neces-

sary for the maintenance of the treaty. Thus this threatening war-cloud passed quietly away. The alarm it had caused helped to draw public attention to the condition of our army, and especially to the purchase system. A cry for its abolition had been raised during the Crimean war, but had sunk again into silence during the peace that followed. It was again raised in consequence of the events we have just narrated, and an agitation, headed by Mr. G. O. Trevelyan, member for the Hawick boroughs, elicited a strong expression of public opinion, and compelled the government to take in hand a reform which would otherwise in all probability have been deferred for some years. On account of its felt urgency, it obtained precedence of those measures of progress and improvement, which, under other circumstances, the government would have thought it necessary to press forward. Accordingly, when the session of 1871 was opened on the 9th of February, the first measure recommended to the attention of the legislature in the Queen's speech was a bill for the 'better regulation of the army and the land forces of the crown.'

But before any bill could be brought forward the negotiations which had been carried on during the recess engaged the attention of the legislature, and were subjected to severe and searching criticism. The attitude of the government in reference to the original dispute between France and Prussia was strongly censured, and it was contended that by expressing, in the first instance, a more decided disapproval of the French demands it might have prevented the war. The course adopted by the government with regard to the Russian demands was still more strongly condemned.

Sir R. Peel particularly distinguished himself by the severity of his strictures. He dwelt, amidst loud laughter, on the frequency with which the word 'ventured' occurred in the foreign correspondence of the government, and contrasted the deferential

language of the present foreign minister with the spirited tone which pervaded Lord Palmerston's diplomatic correspondence. These debates indicated the public feeling with regard to the questions of which they treated, which was cleverly indicated and excited by an anonymous pamphlet, entitled 'The Battle of Dorking,' in which a veteran who had escaped from the destruction of the British army by the Germans in this imaginary battle, describes to his grand-children in the year 1921 the preceding glory and greatness of England. Never perhaps were alarms more groundless. France conquered, humiliated, bound hand and foot, bleeding at every pore, loaded with a war indemnity, such as no nation had ever borne before, and burning with a frantic desire to avenge her defeat, and recover the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, which the conquering Prussians had torn from her, was little likely indeed to dream of attacking us. Germany, Italy, and Russia, now that the Black Sea question was settled, were all animated by the most pacific sentiments, and were neither singly, nor collectively, able to cope with our navy. The balance 'of power,' the cause or pretext of so many a bloody war, had been tumbled in the dust. Nevertheless, the necessity of adopting a spirited policy, holding 'dignified language,' maintaining a firm attitude, had gained such a hold on the public mind that even a ministry so strong as Mr. Gladstone's could not withstand the prevalent feeling, and they were not sorry to avail themselves of the prevalent excitement in order to effect the abolition of a system which enabled the longest purse to carry it over the most brilliant military genius. It seems strange and parodoxical to affirm that there could be much difficulty in abolishing an abuse which every man out of the army and every man in the army not interested in the maintenance of it condemned. But the reader of this work will have had frequent occasion to remark that a small knot of interested persons, well organized and banded together, will often hold their ground against the calm and dis-

passionate opinion of the great body of the nation. In this case the purchase system was defended as every time-honoured absurdity before it was defended. High authorities were quoted, the efficiency of the service was alleged to depend on its continuance, and it was predicted that its abolition would be the sunset of the glory of the British army.

Mr. Cardwell brought forward his plan with commendable promptitude on Thursday the 16th of February. His bill provided not only for the substitution of promotion by merit for promotion by purchase, but also for a thorough reorganization of the army by a combination of the regular troops, the militia, the reserves, and the volunteers. The introduction of this bill, involving, as it did, the increase of the army estimates by several millions, necessarily caused them to be discussed with unusual interest, excitement, and frequency, and afforded the opponents of the measure an opportunity for delay, of which they availed themselves to the uttermost. It soon became evident that if the bill was to be carried during the session, the government would be obliged to sacrifice their scheme of reorganization, and content themselves with effecting the abolition of purchase. And even then Mr. Cardwell was obliged to remind the military obstructives that the over regulation prices were illegal, and that if obstruction was carried too far the law would be enforced. This hint had the desired effect, and the bill was eventually carried in the Commons by 289 votes to 231. At a meeting of peers held at the Carlton Club, it was decided that the bill should be opposed in the House of Lords. Accordingly, the Duke of Richmond, the leader of the conservative peers, moved a resolution to the effect that the house desired to see the whole of the government plan before dealing with the question of the abolition of purchase. His motion was a motion for passing the bill after further delay, but the speech in which he proposed it was an argument against the principle of the bill. The information he sought had been given as far as possible,

not only in the debates of the House of Commons but in the speech of Lord Northbrook, who proposed the second reading in the House of Lords, and stated with great clearness the scope and objects of the bill, which was the abolition of purchase as a first step towards a searching and efficient army reform. Notwithstanding the manifest unreasonableness of the Duke of Richmond's amendment, it was carried by a majority of 25, and it was generally taken for granted that the bill was lost for the session. It was true that the second reading had not been rejected, but it had been subjected to a condition, with which it impossible to comply. The opponents of the bill were loudly jubilant, but their triumph was of short duration. Two days after the victory was gained both houses were crowded in expectation of an announcement of the course which the government would take in consequence of the adoption of the Duke of Richmond's amendment. Greatly to the delight of the supporters of the government it was pointed out by Lord Granville in the upper house and by Mr. Gladstone in the lower, that the success of the Duke of Richmond's amendment did not necessitate the loss of the bill, but only the postponement of the second reading, which might still be moved by any peer, and they announced that as purchase was legalized not by statute but by royal warrant, and as the over regulation prices then paid could only be got rid of by abolishing them altogether, the government had advised the Queen to cancel the warrant by which purchase was authorized, the consequence of which would be the abolition of purchase on the first of November. It was added that the government would use their best efforts to secure the ends which parliament had in view, and just and liberal terms for the officers affected by the step now taken.

Seldom has the House of Commons rung with a more triumphant cheer than this announcement elicited. It placed the majority of the House of Lords in a very embarrassing

dilemma. The chief object of the bill was gained. Purchase, which owed its existence to one exercise of the Royal prerogative, was now abolished by another. The army regulation bill had thus become chiefly a measure for compensating officers for the losses they would sustain through the abolition of purchase. Under these circumstances the Lords censured ministers by a majority of eighty, and quietly passed the bill. If nothing more than this had been effected during the session, the government would richly have deserved the gratitude of the nation. It had stormed a stronghold of class interest, which, if not attacked by a powerful government, might have continued for many years to impair the efficiency and prevent the reorganization of our army. But this was by no means the only measure of great public interest and importance carried during the session of 1871. As we have already seen, the University Tests Bill was passed this year. So too were the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill, abolishing the intolerant provisions that had been incorporated in the measure which the "Papal Aggression" provoked; the Trades Union Bill, carrying out the recommendations of the commissioners appointed to inquire into that important question, and seeking to put an end to trade disputes by the introduction of a system of impartial justice both towards employers and those employed by them; and the Local Government Bill, extending to small towns and villages the administrative advantages enjoyed by cities and boroughs.

The history of the budget of this year is too remarkable to be passed over without more notice.

There was an excess of expenditure above revenue, amounting to £2,713,000. To meet this deficiency Mr. Lowe proposed to make certain alterations in the probate, legacy, and succession duties; to lay a tax on lucifer matches, and add a penny to the income tax, which was to be imposed for the future by a percentage. This budget encountered perhaps greater opposition than any which had preceded it. The long suffering

income tax payers would probably have continued to grumble and pay as they had hitherto done under every vicissitude through which the impost had passed. But the mystification and puzzling which it was alleged would be caused by the 'percentage' and the 'death duties,' as they were termed, excited strong censures and energetic opposition. But of all Mr. Lowe's proposals that which elicited the strongest resistance was the tax on lucifer matches. No sooner was the intention of the government known than a very effective opposition was organized. From the lowest part of London thousands of poor girls, said to be earning a miserable subsistence by means of some industry connected with the production of these articles, filled the passages leading to the House of Commons, and besought the members to reject the proposed impost. Their evident poverty pleaded powerfully in their favour. Their appeal was favourably received, and the general sentiment of the House was strongly expressed in favour of it. The match tax was abandoned; so too were the succession duties, and the penny added to the income tax filled up the gap in the budget which had been caused by their withdrawal.

The establishment of a republic in France, after the downfall of the empire, encouraged the hopes and stimulated the exertion of the republicans of this country. Public meetings were held in the metropolis and other towns, especially in the manufacturing districts; and republican clubs had been founded in London, Birmingham, Newcastle, Nottingham, and several other large towns. The leaders of the movement asserted, though, as was afterwards proved, erroneously, that the Queen had never paid income tax; and they contrasted the sums paid to her and to the other members of the royal family with the modest salary of the President of the United States of America, forgetting that the question between a monarchy and a republic is not a question of money, inasmuch as it

would be quite easy to find persons competent and willing to discharge all the duties of royalty for a renumeration as small or even smaller than that of the chief magistrate of the great American republic. The large sums which the representatives of the English nation have from time to time voted to the sovereign and the members of her family have been intended as manifestions of the loyalty of those whom they represent, and as the expression of a national desire that the court should be maintained with all fitting dignity and splendour. Unfortunately some of those who thus felt and thought manifested their loyalty in a manner calculated to damage the cause they advocated, and instead of meeting the republicans with the legitimate weapons of reason and argument, or treating them with disregard, assailed them with lawless violence, which sometimes led to serious and even fatal results.

This republican agitation was just at its height, when an event occurred which showed how little it had affected the deep-rooted attachment of the English people to their monarchical institutions and to the person and family of the sovereign. Never perhaps in any country did any event evoke a stronger and more general expression of sympathy and sorrow than the news that the Prince of Wales was suffering from an attack of the disorder which had proved fatal to his illustrious father. He had been spending a few days at the seat of Lord Londesborough, near Scarborough, and it was supposed that during his stay he had been exposed to an effluvium proceeding from a badly trapped drain. This report was promptly contradicted by Lord Londesborough's medical attendant, who stated that the sanitary arrangements of the mansion had been carefully examined in anticipation of the Prince's visit, and had been found to be in the best order. It is however certain that several persons who were inmates of the house had been attacked by typhoid symptoms more or less severe, and that one of them, the Earl

of Chesterfield, had sunk under the attack. The prince himself, after his return to Sandringham, exhibited similar symptoms, which soon assumed a serious character. Before this time unfavourable rumours respecting his moral character had been industriously circulated; had obtained too ready credence in some quarters, and had somewhat impaired his popularity. But when it became known that he was suffering under serious and alarming illness there was an outburst of loyal sympathy, unparalleled in the history of this or of any other country. It seemed as though the whole nation had become one great family, whose hope and chief stay was hanging between life and death. In every town, in every village, each successive bulletin was expected with intense anxiety, and as the telegraph flashed tidings of the prince's condition to the furthest extremities of the earth, Englishmen were there, anxiously expecting the latest intelligence, and going away joyful or dejected according as the tidings were hopeful or unfavourable. This striking manifestation of British loyalty attracted the attention of foreign nations, and produced everywhere a strong feeling in favour of constitutional monarchy. The sympathy and anxiety culminated on the 14th December, the anniversary of the death of the prince consort, and when it was found that on that day there had been a change for the better the nation breathed more freely and hoped more sanguinely. Meanwhile, in almost every place of worship throughout the British Empire prayers were continually offered for the prince's recovery. On the 18th of December the object of so much sympathy was so far restored to health that the Queen and the other members of the royal family felt themselves at liberty to quit Sandringham, and from that time, in spite of the appearance of some untoward symptoms, the progress of the prince's recovery, though slow, was steady and unbroken. On the 26th the Queen wrote a letter, in which she warmly expressed her deep sense of the touching sympathy shown by her people

during those painful and terrible days both for herself and the Princess of Wales, as well as of the general joy at the improvement in the Prince of Wales' state, which, she wrote, "have made a deep and lasting impression on her heart which can never be effaced."

Having thus conveyed her thanks to her subjects the Queen determined to make a public demonstration of her gratitude to the Almighty for his mercies lately shown to herself and to the prince. A solemn thanksgiving service was held at St. Paul's, and was attended by the Queen, the prince, and the rest of the royal family. They were received in a manner that we cannot better describe than by borrowing the words in which the Queen acknowledged the sympathy and enthusiasm that were manifested on the occasion.

'BUCKINGHAM PALACE, Feb. 29, 1872.

'The Queen is anxious, as on a previous occasion, to express publicly her own personal very deep sense of the reception she and her dear children met with on Thursday, February 27, from millions of her subjects on her way to and from St. Paul's.

'Words are too weak for the Queen to say how very deeply touched and gratified she had been by the immense enthusiasm and affection exhibited towards her dear son and herself, from the highest down to the lowest, on the long progress through the capital, and she would earnestly wish to convey her warmest and most heartfelt thanks to the whole nation for this great demonstration of loyalty.

'The Queen, as well as her son and her dear daughter-in-law, felt that the whole nation joined with them in thanking God for sparing the beloved Prince of Wales' life.

'The remembrance of this day, and of the remarkable order maintained throughout, will for ever be affectionately remembered by the Queen and her family.'

One of the first subjects that engaged the attention of parliament in 1872, was the appointment of Sir R. Collier as a judge of a new court of appeal created by the Privy Council Act passed at the close of the preceding session, in defiance, as was alleged, of the spirit and intention of that statute, a clause of which provided that the judges of the new court should be selected from the judges of the existing law courts. In accordance with this provision the appointment was offered to three judges, by all of whom it was refused. It was felt by Mr. Gladstone and the Lord Chancellor that the office would be lowered in public estimation if it were to be hawked about any more. From this difficulty they were relieved by the offer of Sir R. Collier, the Attorney-General, to take the vacant post, although he might fairly hope by waiting to obtain a still higher legal office. As there could not be the smallest doubt as to his fitness for the vacant judgeship, his offer afforded the government a very welcome escape from the embarrassing position in which they had been placed by the refusal of the three judges. But as Sir R. Collier had not been raised to the judicial bench, he did not possess the technical qualification which the statute required. He was therefore appointed to a vacant puisne judgeship in the court of Common Pleas, which he held for only two days, and was then transferred to the Court of Appeal. The manner of this appointment, though perhaps unavoidable, made an unfavourable impression. It was urged by many of the opponents of the government, and by some of its supporters, that the spirit and intention of the Act had been flagrantly violated. And this feeling was strengthened by the appearance of letters from the Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench strongly condemning the manner in which the appointment had been made, and from the Chief Justice of the Common Pleas protesting against the use which had been made of his court to provide a qualification for the new judge. The opportunity thus afforded of inflicting on the government a damaging defeat was too tempting to be

allowed to pass unimproved. Votes of censure were proposed in both chambers of the legislature. In the upper house ministers triumphed by the narrow majority of two, in the lower by twenty-seven.

The questions which chiefly engaged the attention of the legislature during the session of 1872 were those of secret voting and the licensing of public-houses.

Perhaps no question had so long or so frequently been brought under the attention of the lower house as the question of vote by ballot, none had been more eagerly pressed or more strenuously resisted. Addison, in a letter dated Feb. 2, 1708, mentions that the House of Commons was then engaged in a project for deciding elections by 'balloting,' but nothing more seems to have been heard of it until after the peace of 1815. It then attracted so much popular support that, as we have seen, Lord J. Russell, in bringing forward the Reform Bill in 1831, thought it necessary to apologize for the absence from the measure of any provision regarding the ballot, on the ground that it was desirable that the question of secret voting should be dealt with separately. During the first session of the reformed parliament in 1833, the question was embodied in a bill brought forward by Mr. Grote, the historian of Greece, and then one of the members for the city of London, and it formed the subject of a long series of motions, introduced first by that gentleman, and after his retirement from parliament by Mr. Berkeley. It was also one of the points of the 'people's charter,' and perhaps the one to which, of all others, the Chartists attached the greatest importance. It was strongly advocated by a large majority of the liberal party throughout the country. Lord J. Russell always opposed it, but when provoked by the intimidation and corruption practised at the elections of members of parliament, he used language which caused some to hope and others to fear that he would become a convert to the ballot. On the other hand, Sidney Smith, in one of the ablest, wittiest, and most ingenious of his writings,

had argued strongly against its adoption. The question, however, was slowly and steadily making its way. The evidence taken by a committee appointed in 1868 to consider the subject, of which Lord Hartington was the chairman, converted many, and amongst the rest Mr. Gladstone, who had previously opposed it; and it was decided that the subject should be dealt with by the government. Accordingly, in 1871 it was intimated in the Queen's speech that the question would be brought forward, and a measure was introduced by Mr. Forster, which, after having passed the Commons, was rejected by the Lords on the ground that it was submitted to them at a period of the session too late to admit of its being duly considered by them. This year it was again passed by the lower house and sent up to the peers, by whom it was read a second time, but an amendment was carried in committee which made secret voting optional. It was rejected by the Commons, and not being insisted on by the Lords, the bill was adopted nearly in the form in which it had been originally proposed, establishing the system of secret voting with which we are all familiar, abolishing the public nomination of candidates and declaration of the poll, formalities which had become entirely useless, but which were fruitful causes of riot and disorder. A clause introduced in the upper house provided that the bill should only remain in force to the close of the year 1880, but there can be no doubt that, after the very satisfactory experience we have had of its working, all parties will agree to continue the system.

The amendment of the licensing laws was introduced by Mr. Bruce, the home secretary. The agitation carried on by the United Kingdom Alliance for the total and 'immediate suppression of the liquor traffic' had indeed failed to attain the object at which it aimed, but had effected a great change in public opinion with regard to the use and utility of alcoholic liquors. It had also drawn general attention to the enormous amount of crime, pauperism, and misery they produced, and

the prodigious expenditure which they occasioned in police, prisons, workhouses, &c. The Alliance had collected and diffused throughout the land an immense amount of evidence, and had obtained the enormous sum of 100,000*l.*, which it employed for the purpose of carrying on the agitation with greater vigour. The publicans, who in the first instance had treated its efforts with derision, had now become seriously alarmed at the progress which the agitation had made, and presented a strong and united front. Thus Mr. Bruce, in framing his bill, was placed between two powerful and highly excited parties. The publicans professed to desire the adoption of measures calculated to get rid of drunkenness, the Alliance wanted to get rid of the drink itself. The publicans pleaded for the interests of their trade. The Alliance contended that they should yield to the welfare of the people. The publicans sued for compensation, the Alliance replied by demanding retribution. It was impossible to devise any compromise that would be accepted by two parties so diametrically opposed. It was foreseen from the first that the government would lose much popularity by pressing the question, but it was felt that it was one that could only be dealt with by a strong government, and that the present administration was bound to employ the power which the last general election had given them in dealing with a matter so urgent and so important to the public morality. Mr. Disraeli's administration had framed a measure on the subject, which their defeat at the last general election prevented them from bringing forward. Mr. Bruce introduced a bill in 1871, but being unable to carry it during that session, they passed a temporary measure giving to the home secretary a veto on all licenses granted by the magistrates, and in 1872 the bill of 1871 was revived. Mr. Bruce's bill did not go the length of the Permissive Bill, and did not even admit the principle which it embodied of giving the public some control over the public-houses. At the same time, being fully aware of the evils that attended the liquor traffic and of the ne-

cessity of putting very strong restraints on it, while he left to the magistracy the power of granting or withdrawing licences under certain regulations, and protected publicans from vexatious appeals, he provided that a register should be kept of offences committed in public-houses, increased the penalties inflicted for drunkenness, provided securities against the adulteration of intoxicating liquors, and shortened the hours during which public-houses were permitted to remain open both on Sundays and week days.

The bill, though strenuously opposed by the publicans, was carried through the two houses. The enforcement of its early closing provisions led at first to some slight disturbances, which were chiefly directed against hotels for the entertainment of travellers, which necessarily remained open after the other public houses had been closed; but these disorders were confined to one or two localities, and were easily suppressed. The new license-law was enforced without difficulty, though not without giving bitter offence to the publicans, whose resentment was manifested at the elections which took place after the passing of the measure in a manner very disastrous to the government by which it had been framed and carried.

The treaty of Washington and the proceedings that arose out of it constitute an important era in the history of the world. We have already alluded to the ill-feeling produced in America by the ravages which the Alabama and other ships that had gone out from our ports had committed. That feeling became so strong that the United States government, which from its constitution is peculiarly liable to be acted on by every impulse of popular feeling, could not disregard it, and sensible men on both sides of the Atlantic desired to see something done to allay the irritation that existed. To the Earl of Derby belongs the credit of having proposed to submit the questions at issue between the two countries to a tribunal of arbitration. He was met in a most cordial spirit by Mr. Reverdy Johnson, who had been sent to this country as the representative of the

United States, and a negotiation was set on foot which ended in the embodiment of the ideas which they had formed in a treaty. Unfortunately, Mr. Johnson gave umbrage to his countrymen by accepting a great number of invitations to banquets held in his honour in different parts of the country, and employed language at them which, though intended only to express gratitude for the cordiality of his reception and good will towards England, gave great umbrage to his countrymen, and led to his recal. The treaty he was engaged in negotiating shared the unpopularity of the negotiator, and was rejected in the Senate of the United States by an almost unanimous vote. Mr. Johnson was succeeded by Mr. Motley, the historian of the Netherlands, who, in conjunction with Mr. Fish, the foreign secretary of the United States, renewed the interrupted negotiations. As it is required by the constitution of the United States that all proposals should be submitted to the Senate, it was thought best that the negotiations should be carried on at Washington, and that the English commissioners should be sent thither. It was understood on both sides that an effort should be made to settle the questions at issue between the two countries on broad and general principles applicable to all future differences. The Gladstone administration, which had succeeded that of Mr. Disraeli, was blamed for being, as was alleged; over eager to entertain the claims of the American government, and not sufficiently earnest in pressing counter-claims raised in Canada to compensation for damage done by Fenian raiders. These censures were entirely undeserved. It was of the utmost importance to this country not to leave unsettled claims which were sure to be pressed at the moment which would be the most inconvenient for us, and there was not a shadow of foundation for the charge made against the American government of having violated international obligations in dealing with the Fenians. Our government therefore displayed a wise moderation in abstaining from urging claims that could not be sustained, and

in providing for the settlement of international disputes by arbitration. Thus carrying out the plan which Mr. Cobden had so strongly urged, which Lord Palmerston and many of his followers had derided, and which has established a precedent applicable to all future disputes between civilized nations. The English government greatly facilitated the conclusion of this treaty by a frank and unreserved expression of regret at the escape of the Alabama and the other privateers, and at the ravages which they committed. The commissioners on both sides agreed that the decisions of the arbitrators to be appointed under the terms of the treaty should be governed by the following rules of international duty, which the American commissioners submitted and our commissioners accepted as a fair expression of the recognised law of nations:—

'1. That a neutral government is bound, first, to use due diligence to prevent the fitting out, arming, or equipping within its jurisdiction of any vessel which it has reasonable ground to believe is intended to cruise or carry on war against a power with which it is at peace; and also to use like diligence to prevent the departure from its jurisdiction, of any vessel intended to cruise or carry on a war as above, such vessel having been specially adapted, in whole or in part, within such jurisdiction to warlike use.

'2. Not to permit or suffer either belligerent to make use of its ports or waters as the base of naval operations against the other, or for the purpose of the renewal or augmentation of military supplies or arms, or the recruitment of men.

'3. To exercise due diligence in its own ports and waters, and as to all persons within its jurisdiction, to prevent any violation of the foregoing obligations and duties.

'It being a condition of this understanding, that these obligations should in future be held to be binding internationally between the two countries.'

The English commissioners, in accepting these rules and agreeing that the decisions of the arbitrators should be governed

by them, denied that our government had in any way failed in the performance of international duties, or had neglected to use every proper precaution to prevent the departure of the privateers; on the contrary, they maintained that they had even gone beyond those duties by purchasing ships suspected, though without proof, to be designed to be employed in the same manner as the Alabama.

But after the terms had been fully arranged and the treaty ratified, a difficulty arose which at one time seemed likely to prove fatal to it. The English negociators had all along understood, and believed that they had clearly made it to be understood by the American negociators, that the arbitrators were only to take into their consideration the amount of the actual and direct damage done by the privateers whose depredations had given rise to the treaty; but the American government set up a claim for indirect damages—that is to say, for the expense that the United States had been put to and the losses they had sustained in consequence of the failure of our government to prevent the privateers from quitting our ports. These indirect claims were made under the three following heads:

1. The losses in the transfer of the American commercial marine to the British flag.

2. The enhancement of the payment of insurances.

3. The prolongation of the war, and the addition of a large sum to the cost of it.

These claims were resisted by the English commissioners, and at length virtually waived by the American government.

When all the questions arising out of the negociations had been satisfactorily settled, arbitrators were appointed in accordance with the stipulations of the treaty. They were—Count Frederic Sclopis, for Italy, President; Chief Justice Cockburn, for England; Mr. Charles Francis Adams, for America; M. Jaques Staempli, for Switzerland; and Viscount Itajuba, for Brazil. They met on the 15th, and again on the

19th of June, on which occasion they formally rejected the indirect claims. The discussions were carried on with occasional adjournments till the 25th of December, when the president delivered the decision of the tribunal. It was determined that in the case of the Alabama and the Florida, Great Britain had failed to fulfil the duties prescribed by the first and third rules of the treaty, but that in the cases of the Retribution, the Sumter, the Nashville, the Tullahassee, and the Chickamanga, she had not failed. The tribunal awarded 15,000,000 dollars, or about 3,000,000*l*., in satisfaction of all claims.

The Washington treaty was again put in force this year, and the decision was again unfavourable to this country. The question of the right to the possession of the island of San Juan was referred to the arbitration of the Emperor of Germany, by whom it was awarded to the United States. These two disputes, which a few years before would probably have led to long and bloody wars, were now decided by a judicial tribunal, whose decisions involved no humiliation of the party against which they were given.

While our diplomatic relations with the United States were thus placed on a satisfactory footing, those with France were somewhat impaired in consequence of the approach of the time when the treaty negociated by Mr. Cobden had been appointed to expire, leaving the governments of the two countries to renew or to modify it as they might think best after the experience they had enjoyed of its working. The French government was at this moment animated by feelings of cordial friendship towards this country. But the enormous burdens with which they were laden compelled them to make some alterations in a treaty which had been negociated under circumstances very different from those in which France was placed at this moment. And the President of the French Republic, M. Thiers, and his minister of finance, M. Pouyer Quertier, both vehement protectionists, were naturally opposed to the free-trade principles on which the treaty was based,

and in the modifications which they were compelled by the situation of France to introduce into the treaty they naturally proceeded on the opinions which they held in common with the majority of their countrymen. However, great allowance was properly made on this side of the water for the difficulties in which the French government and nation were involved, and the changes that were proposed to be made in the treaty, though strongly objected to in England, produced no abatement of the cordial good understanding that subsisted between the two nations and their two governments. On both sides great efforts were made to maintain the free-trade character of the treaty, and they contributed in no small degree to bring about the retirement first of M. Pouyer Quertier, and afterwards of M. Thiers.

The close of 1872 and the commencement of 1873 were marked by strikes and rumours of strikes, arising from a general demand on the part of the working classes for increased wages and shorter hours of labour. There were strikes of agricultural labourers, strikes of masons, bricklayers, painters, plasterers, metal workers, in a word, of workers in almost every trade connected with building; threatened strikes of bakers, causing serious uneasiness, and lastly, strikes of metropolitan policemen and gasmen, exciting serious alarms. Five of the ringleaders in the last mentioned strike were indicted for a conspiracy, tried before Judge Brett, convicted, and sentenced to be imprisoned for twelve months. The severity of the sentence converted the indignation which had been felt at the conduct of these men into compassion, and great efforts were made to procure a remission of the sentence. Of all the strikes that occurred at this time the most serious was that of 10,000 colliers in Wales, which drew after it the compelled idleness of 60,000 men engaged in the iron trade. One consequence of this strike was that the price of coals, which had been steadily increasing for many years, suddenly doubled, producing what was not incorrectly described at the time as a 'coal famine.' Fortunately,

the winter of 1872-3 was exceptionally mild, and, therefore, the scarcity of coal was less severely felt by the poorer classes than it would have been in a more rigorous season. These circumstances induced Sir W. Armstrong to deliver at Newcastle a very interesting and important speech in which he drew the attention of the English people to the rapid increase of the consumption of coal, and to the waste which was a principal cause of that increase. He stated that our consumption of coal was accelerating at the rate of four per cent. compound interest per annum, and that if this increase continued our stock of coal, large as it is, would be exhausted, and therefore, that if the enhanced price should be the means of producing more care and economy in the use of coal, it would in the end be an advantage to the country. He mentioned that the coal annually raised was consumed in nearly equal proportion, under three great divisions—1. domestic consumption; 2. steam engine consumption; and 3. iron-making and other manufacturing processes. He pointed out various means by which the consumption of coal might be lessened, and suggested the increased use of machinery and the diminution of the number of men directly employed in getting coal as a means of bringing the supply up to the level of the legitimate demand.

The commencement of the year 1873 was marked by the illness and sudden death of one who, though a foreigner, had for many years filled a large space in the eyes and affections of the English people. On the 9th of January, the Emperor Napoleon III. terminated his chequered and eventful career at Chislehurst, whither he had retired after his release from captivity in Germany. His long residence in this country, the earnestness with which he had laboured to maintain friendly relations with the English government, the admiration with which his high-souled Empress was generally regarded, and the misfortunes which had cast so deep a cloud on his later days, all combined to produce a strong feeling of regret at his decease, and to evoke a much warmer manifestation of sympathy throughout

England than was displayed in the country which he had so long ruled, and in which he had enjoyed such unbounded popularity.

The royal speech, delivered by commission, at the commencement of the session of 1873 contained the following announcements:—'A measure will be submitted to you on an early day for settling the question of University Education in Ireland. It will have for its object the advancement of learning in that portion of my dominions, and will be framed with a careful regard to the rights of conscience.

'You will find ample occupation in dealing with other legislative subjects of importance, which for the most part have already been under your notice in various forms and at different periods. Among these your attention will speedily be asked to the formation of a Supreme Court of Judicature, including provision for the trial of appeals.

'Among the measures that will be brought before you, there will also be proposals for facilitating the Transfer of Land, and for the amendment of our system of Local Taxation, of certain provisions of the Education Act of 1870, and of the General Acts regulating Railways and Canals; together with various other bills for the improvement of the Law.'

The large liberal majority returned at the last general election was an expression of national confidence in Messrs. Gladstone and Bright, and more especially of confidence in their ability to deal with the inveterate ills that afflicted Ireland, and to bind that country with Great Britain, not only by legislative enactments, but by ties of loyalty to her sovereign, and attachment to her institutions. The government had already responded to these expectations by the disestablishment of the Irish Church, and a settlement of the Irish land question, which bids fair to be satisfactory to all classes and conditions of men in Ireland. It was hoped that the present parliament would crown its labours by a much needed measure of university reform for Ireland, by which the system of religious equality which the Irish Church

bill had inaugurated, would be perfected. Accordingly, in the week after the opening of the parliamentary session, Mr. Gladstone introduced a bill which provided for the creation of a new Irish university, no longer identified with Trinity College, but of which that college was to form a part, together with other colleges either already existing or hereafter to be brought into existence. Each of these colleges was to be placed on a footing with regard to the new university similar to that on which the colleges of Oxford and Cambridge stand in reference to their respective universities, except so far as the preponderance of the Roman Catholic religion in Ireland might make it the duty of the government to introduce peculiar safeguards against the violation of the principles of religious equality, and of the rights of conscience. With this view the faculty of theology was transferred to the disestablished church of Ireland, and the subjects of mental and moral philosophy were to be excluded from the official teaching of the new university, although it was proposed that there should be voluntary examinations in these subjects. Mr. Gladstone introduced the government measure in a speech characterized by great ability and extraordinary argumentative power, which quite carried away the house; and it seemed at first likely that the bill would command almost universal acceptance. But when it came to be more deliberately scanned, objections were raised against it from various quarters from which support had been originally expected. The Irish Roman Catholic hierarchy, to whose just claims much was granted, opposed it, because all their unreasonable demands were not conceded. Many of the Irish Protestants opposed it because they thought that it gave too much to the Catholics. Mr. Fawcett had already in 1872 introduced a bill dealing with the question, which had the recommendation of being approved by the governing body of Trinity College, and this bill was reintroduced in 1873. Mr. Disraeli led the opposition to the measure, and was strongly supported by the conservative party. Mr. Gladstone, on the other hand, declared that the government

was resolved to stake its existence on the passing of the measure. There was, therefore, a strong party struggle on the question of the second reading of the bill. Mr. Horsman, whom we have before seen embarrassing the liberal party, of which he was a professed member, made a strong and bitter speech against the measure, in the course of which he thus spoke of it. 'This is a bill which nobody wants, nobody accepts—which settles nothing, and muddles everything. The Protestants do not want it; the Catholics refuse to accept it, and Mr. Gladstone ought to put an agreeable termination to an ugly business by withdrawing a measure so impossible. There is no precedent for proceeding with a bill so universally condemned, and why should parliament have this bill thrust down its throat against its will as a vote of confidence in the government? Has any English or Scotch member ever gone through the hypocrisy of professing to feel confidence in the government on this question? When the country understands the bill, such a vote will be regarded as a vote of confidence in Cardinal Cullen and his priests. Any member who gives such a vote will meet with speedy extinction from his constituents.'

In the course of the debate the chancellor of the exchequer thus referred to Mr. Horsman's attack:—

'There is always a consolation in these matters that there are found some faithful spirits when others prove false to us. There are those who will not leave their friends in the hour of the darkest adversity. I have one in my mind of whom I will not speak in prose, but rather whose conduct I will describe in the language of the poet—

> "Come rest in this bosom my own stricken deer,
> Though the herd may have left thee, thy home is still here.
> Here, at least, is a smile, which no cloud can o'ercast,
> And a heart and a hand all thine own to the last."

'The House will see that I am not too highflown in the panegyric I give when I read this letter: "Mr. Gladstone has introduced a measure of University Education which does him

great honour, and when, perfected by amendment in committee, it takes its place in the statute book, it will be a noble crowning to the work of the present parliament. We must all come to its consideration with an earnest desire to acknowledge the large and generous spirit with which the government has addressed itself to the subject, and co-operate with the high purpose it has in view; and as the erroneous impression conveyed by Mr. Gladstone's allusion to Sir R. Inglis and the Pope could not pass without notice, I have written this letter with a view of getting it out of the way before we come to the real business." That letter is dated "7, Richmond Terrace, February 15," and is signed by "Edward Horsman."' (Loud cheers and laughter.)

The debate was thus concluded by Mr. Gladstone:—

'To mete out justice to Ireland according to the best view that with human infirmity we could form has been the work, I will almost say the *sacred* work, of this parliament. Having put our hand to the plough, let us not turn back. Let not what we think the fault or the perverseness of those whom we are attempting to assist have the slightest effect in turning us from the path on which we have entered. As we have begun so let us go through, and with firm and resolute hand let us efface from the law and the practice of this country the last—I believe it is the last—of the religious and social grievances of Ireland.'

The house divided at two o'clock in the morning, when the numbers were:—

For the second reading of the Bill	284
Against	287
Majority against the government	3

As Mr. Gladstone had distinctly declared that the government would stand or fall by their measure, he and his colleagues at once resigned, and Mr. Disraeli was sent for by the Queen to form a new administration. Mr. Gladstone, worn

down by the labours of an office which, under his conscientious discharge of its duties, had become a burden almost too heavy to be borne, and which was telling seriously on his health, hailed the fall of his administration as a welcome relief. But Mr. Disraeli, although he had brought about that event, was not prepared to attempt the construction of a Conservative ministry, and therefore Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues were compelled by a feeling of loyalty to the Queen and by a sense of duty to retain office. As the Irish University Bill of the government was rejected, the measure on the same subject which Mr. Fawcett introduced was reduced to a bill for the abolition of tests in the existing university, and in that shape carried.

The government, though defeated on the principal measure of the session, was more fortunate with regard to another measure of equal importance. On the same evening on which the Dublin University Bill was introduced in the House of Commons by the Premier, the Judicature Bill was brought forward by Lord Chancellor Selborne in the House of Peers. It was based on the report, issued in 1869, of a commission which had been appointed to inquire into the means of effecting a complete reconstruction of our judicial system. It proposed to unite in one great tribunal all the higher courts of justice, to economize and distribute without regard to antiquated divisions the judicial system of the country, to put an end to the distinction between law and equity, which has been so productive of vexatious annoyance and extravagant expense, and in virtue of which suitors were sent from court to court without being able to obtain redress. Besides effecting all this, the bill laid a foundation for further law reforms. But while the measure made great changes in the substance of the judicial system of the country, it avoided as much as possible all changes in the form of it. The Lord Chief Justices of the Queen's Bench and the Common Pleas, and the Chief Baron of the Exchequer, retained the titles and the precedence they

already enjoyed, and the existing divisions of the courts over which they presided were allowed to remain as far as they did not interfere with the due and efficient administration of justice. But perhaps the chief merit of the bill was that it made provision for the long demanded reform of the appellate jurisdiction nominally exercised by the House of Lords, but really by its legal members. It was proposed to transfer this jurisdiction to a tribunal composed of the Lord Chancellor as its head, the chief justices, and the chief baron, the master of the rolls and other judges, not exceeding nine in number. It was intended in the first instance that the bill should only apply to England, but the public opinion of Scotland and Ireland being strongly pronounced in favour of the admission of those countries to a participation in its benefits, the government was quite willing to yield a claim which was in itself so reasonable; finding, however, that this change would cause a question of privilege to be raised which might endanger the success of the measure, they abandoned for the present an improvement which, as they believed, was sure at no very distant time to be adopted. The bill was carried through both houses without having undergone any very important change, and thus another great and important reform was added to those which the ministry had already achieved.

The loss of time, prestige, and influence which the government suffered through the defeat of its Irish University Bill paralyzed its action, and prevented further important legislation during the remainder of the session. Men's minds were now turned to the general election, which was certain to take place in 1874, and both parties were already preparing for it. The conservatives pointed to victories won, at isolated reactions as proofs of a conservative reaction, while the ministerialists, confiding in the great measures they had already carried, and in those which they intended in due time to submit to the legislatures, and the country, hoped to obtain, if not a larger, at least a more compact and united band of supporters in the

next parliament. The prime minister took, in addition to the office of first lord of the treasury, that of chancellor of the exchequer: and it was at once inferred that he was meditating another of those great financial operations which had established his reputation as the first financier of our age. Mr. Bright was induced to re-enter the cabinet as chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and Messrs. Lyon Playfair and Vernon Harcourt, who, like him, represented sections of the Liberal party which had been dissatisfied with the educational policy of the government, also took office under Mr. Gladstone. These appointments were generally regarded as indicative of a contemplated change in the policy of the government, or of an attempt to transform into allies some of those whose opposition to the government had been most formidable; but the author has the best authority for declaring in the strongest manner that Mr. Gladstone was not in any degree influenced by such motives in the selection of these gentlemen, but that they were chosen simply on account of their fitness for the positions to which they were appointed, and their ability to defend the policy of the administration of which they became members.

By no part of its policy had the government established a stronger claim on the gratitude of the country than by its financial operations. When it first took charge of the finances the expenditure of the country exceeded its revenue by 513,000*l.* During its term of office the government had taken off taxes amounting to 12,000,000*l.* They had spent 10,000,000*l.* in the purchase of telegraphs, in accordance with arrangements made by their predecessors. The Franco-Prussian war had led to an increased expenditure on the army of 2,000,000*l.*; and half the Alabama indemnity had been paid off without the assistance of a loan or the imposition of a tax. And yet, while these results had been obtained by the increase of the national resources, and by the application of a rigorous economy to every department of the public service, there had been no lack of proper liberality on the part of the government. The army

had been increased by 14,000 men, 8000*l.* had been expended in the purchase of pictures collected by the late Sir R. Peel, and 50,000*l.* had been devoted to the acquisition of valuable antiquities for the British Museum; 26,000,000*l.* had been applied to the diminution of the national debt, yet Mr. Gladstone was able to announce, at the commencement of the year 1874, that the government had at its disposal a surplus of 5,000,000*l.*, and intended to submit to parliament a plan involving a total repeal of the income tax, improved local administration, and a substantial boon to the consumer.

When that year commenced, the interest of the country was engrossed by the prosecution of a claimant to the Tichborne baronetcy and estates, rendered remarkable by the portentous impudence of the claim, the recklessness with which it was advocated, and the enormous cost and length of the trial. It was known that a general election would take place in the course of the year; but as it was supposed to be still at least three months distant, the thought of it did not dispel the political torpor which brooded over the country. The announcement that the parliamentary session would commence on the 5th of February, and the rumour that it would be opened by the Queen in person, had no other effect than to excite a considerable demand for places to witness the ceremony. Suddenly the electric telegraph flashed through the country the intelligence that Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues had recommended an immediate dissolution, that their advice had been adopted by the Queen, that Mr. Gladstone's address to the electors of Greenwich was already issued, and that in a fortnight the fate of the government would be decided. There is no reason to suppose that when the notices were issued announcing the commencement of the session on the 5th of February, a dissolution was contemplated. The resolution seems to have been taken afterwards, for the purpose of ascertaining whether or no the ministry retained the confidence of the country, or whether the Con-

servative reaction which seemed to be indicated by many isolated contests would bear the test of a general election. It was felt by the government that it was necessary, without further loss of time, to put an end to a state of things which paralysed its action and encouraged the House of Lords to reject measures on which the House of Commons had bestowed much time and labour.

Whatever may be thought of these reasons, it must be admitted that the decision based on them was advantageous to the country. It compressed into a fortnight the political agitation which would otherwise have been spread over months. It prevented much serious interruption of public and private business, greatly diminished the expenditure at the elections, saved the candidates from a prolonged uncertainty, and probably did not seriously affect the result. At all events, it did not prevent the electoral battle from being fairly fought out. No sooner was the announcement issued than the prevailing torpor was changed into the most lively effervescence. Candidates hastened to the places they hoped to represent, and the battle at once commenced. Mr. Gladstone carried his election at Greenwich, but a Mr. Boord, a local distiller, almost unknown beyond the limits of his own borough, headed the poll. Mr. Bright, with his two Liberal colleagues, was returned for Birmingham without opposition, and expressed his acknowledgments in a speech which showed that, notwithstanding his recent illness, he was still England's greatest orator. Mr. Forster, though repudiated by a large number of his warmest friends, was returned triumphantly at Bradford. Other members and supporters of the ministry were less fortunate. But we will not enter further into the details of the contest; suffice it to say that the Conservative party, which before the dissolution had been in a minority of about sixty-five, could reckon in the new parliament on a compact majority of at least sixty.

How are we to explain this great Conservative victory?

How to account for this decisive defeat of a ministry which, in accordance with the clearly expressed will of the nation, had disestablished the Irish Church, settled the Irish land question, carried a national system of education, banished from our parliamentary elections the riot, disorder, drunkenness and corruption that had hitherto disgraced them, regulated our public-houses, dealt vigorously with the vexed and knotty question of legal reform, increased the efficiency of the military and civil service, and so ably administered the finances of the country that after effecting repeals of taxation to the amount of 12,000,000*l.* it could announce a surplus exceeding 5,000,000*l.*, promise to repeal the income tax, largely benefit the general consumer, and deal with the perplexed subject of local self-government and taxation—how, I say, are we to account for the summary rejection of a government which had already done so much, and which promised so much more in the next parliament?

The answer we make to these questions is, that the merits we have enumerated were the chief cause of the defeat we have described. The progress made was too rapid, not for the interest of the country, but for the popularity and permanence of the government. Every great political change, while it benefits multitudes, injures or offends a few, whose sharp resentment is often more than a match for the languid gratitude of the many who are benefited, and so the force of the reaction is proportioned to the rapidity of the progress. Multitudes who at the last election supported Mr. Gladstone because he advocated the changes they desired, supported the opponents of further change. The disestablishment of the Irish Church alarmed the clergy, who feared that the Liberal party would follow it up by an assault on the English Church. Both the clergy and the Roman Catholic priesthood dreaded that the same party would substitute for the mixed system of education adopted in 1870, a national system of secular, or at least undenominational, instruction, and the Anti-State Church party was offended because

this had not been done already. The economy of the government irritated many whose profits it diminished, or whose hopes it blighted. The disorganised state of the Liberal party gave a great advantage to its opponents. Most of the great questions on which its members were united were disposed of, and lesser questions were coming to the front respecting which much diversity of opinion existed among them. In parliament and out of parliament, notwithstanding the warnings and exhortations of their leader, each section of the Liberal party pressed forward its particular question, and would not hear of its postponement. While they were thus divided, their opponents were thoroughly united. Deprecating change in general, they presented an unbroken front to the advocates of diverse and sometimes contradictory changes. To all these causes of defeat must be added that proverbial popular fickleness and political ingratitude which will continue until a better education shall have taught the masses to make a more conscientious and consistent use of the electoral franchise. There can be little doubt that many voted against the ministry from no other motive than an unreasoning love of change.

The elections being terminated, all that remained to be done was to decide whether ministers should at once resign or meet the new parliament. Many warm supporters of the government were anxious that Mr. Gladstone should lay before the legislature and the nation the financial measures which he had sketched in his electioneering addresses. But the general opinion, so far, at least, as it could be collected from the public journals, was in favour of an immediate resignation, and Mr. Gladstone was especially anxious to be at once released from his honourable but laborious position. On Monday the 16th of February, the cabinet met informally at his private residence; he warmly recommended an immediate resignation. There was some difference of opinion, but the majority agreed with the premier that the interruption of public business which would be caused by a longer retention of office should be avoided.

They therefore resolved to tender their resignations, which were accepted, and Mr. Disraeli was sent for by the Queen to form a new administration.

The year that had recently expired had been peculiarly fatal to men of eminence in almost every walk of human excellence. Philosophy suffered an irreparable loss through the death of John Stuart Mill; geology was deprived of her most eminent teacher by the decease of Professor Sedgwick, and medicine by that of Sir H. Holland. The Church lost her brightest ornament by the accident which instantaneously took away Bishop Wilberforce, and the legal profession suffered a loss scarcely less heavy by the demise of Lord Westbury; art mourned Landseer, and literature her ennobled child, Lord Lytton.

It is now time that we should turn our attention to the course of events which had occurred in the Church since the date at which we last referred to them. During the period preceding that of which this work treats, great religious activity was manifested by the dissenters, with whom almost all the stirrings of religious thought which then occurred in the country originated. The rise of the evangelical party was no exception to the truth of this statement, for it was nothing else but a gradual penetration into the Church of principles which had been proclaimed by Wesley and others outside her pale. But from the time of the passing of the Reform Bill of 1832 the tide turned. The intellectual and spiritual activity which seemed to have deserted the Church when she was in safety re-appeared in the hour of danger. We have already traced the origin and diffusion of Tractarianism, its connection with the reform struggle, and the efforts made by the Tractarians to withstand the advancing tide of religious and political liberalism, which threatened, like an all-devouring deluge, to overwhelm and break down the barriers that had hitherto protected the Church. We have now to follow the further developments of this movement, which modified, and

was modified by, the religious liberalism to which it was originally antagonistic.

Tractarianism had a twofold character. It was at once doctrinal and æsthetic; and each of these aspects contributed to obtain for it the adhesion and energetic support of many youthful and generous spirits. The doctrinal principle of Tractarianism was the authority of the Church enforced by the right of dispensing or withholding the two sacraments—regarded as being 'generally necessary to salvation'—by an ordained priesthood tracing, as was affirmed, its spiritual descent through a long succession of bishops to those on whom the apostles had laid their consecrating hands, thereby transmitting an authority and a sacredness which continued in full force and efficacy to the present day. But the ground on which this authority was based, the alleged consent of the primitive Church, was distinctly opposed to the celebrated dictum of Chillingworth,—'The Bible, and the Bible alone, is the religion of Protestants.' The Tractarians were at once brought into collision with the evangelical party, most of whom accepted the doctrine of apostolical succession as an opinion sanctioned by certain warrants of holy writ. Thus the saying above quoted was brought into discussion. The Tractarians denied the truth of it, maintaining that the New Testament derived its authority from the Church, and pointing out that the faith once for all delivered to the saints must have existed as a body of doctrine during the long interval that elapsed between the resurrection of Christ and the appearance of the earliest of the books that formed the New Testament. And they further stated, that when the canon was formed, the test that was applied to every book for which a place was claimed in the sacred volume, was its conformity to the pre-existing body of doctrine. Thus a fierce controversy arose between the advocates of the supremacy of the Church and the maintainers of the supremacy of Scripture.

The evangelical party, though greatly shocked by the state-

ments of their antagonists, had very little to urge in reply to them. Their main position was, that the Scriptures were their own best proof, that they commended themselves to the mind of every man who read them in a right spirit as being the true Word of God, and that if their antagonists did not recognise the evidence of their divine inspiration and paramount authority, it was simply because they did not read them in a proper spirit. Such assertions had some plausibility when applied to many parts of the Psalms, to the prophetic writings, and to the greater part of the New Testament, but seemed to be hardly borne out by such passages as those which record the murder of Sisera or Eglon, or the slaughter of the worshippers of Baal by Jehu. Such actions might, perhaps, be defended as justifiable under the circumstances in which their perpetrators were placed; but they could scarcely be urged as manifest proofs of the divine origin and inspiration of the books which contain them. However, the controversy thus commenced raged long and violently, and led many of the Tractarians, in their zeal for the authority of the Church, to use language tending to disparage the authority of Scripture. No one more distinguished himself by his bold—we may almost say reckless—treatment of this subject than Mr., now Dr., Newman, in many of his writings, but especially in his tract on 'Scripture Difficulties.' It would be very unjust to a good and great man to attribute to him the origin of views which he vehemently and pertinaciously combatted; but there can be no doubt that he employed arguments necessary to the maintenance of the position he had taken up, but tending to unsettle men's minds with regard to the authority of Scripture, and to facilitate the diffusion of views which were silently making their way in spite of all his efforts.

The study of German theology had for some time past been extending at Oxford, and as early as 1840 the works of Kant, Spinoza, Schleiermacher, Hegel, &c., had been eagerly read, and had produced a disposition to advance much further in the

free criticism of the Scriptures than Dr. Newman was disposed to venture. The result of these studies showed itself in a very able article that appeared in the *Edinburgh Review*, as well as in lectures and sermons published by Mr. Stanley, now Dean of Westminster; in Wilson's Brompton Lectures, Professor Jowett's work on the Epistles to the Thessalonians, Galatians, and Romans; in Professor Baden Powell's Unity of Worlds; and in a volume entitled *Essays and Reviews*, published in 1860.

This book was made up of seven essays, each of which bore the name of its author. In the first of these the human race was represented as one man, whose mind was formed by the beliefs and doctrines of successive ages, and whose religious and intellectual development is still proceeding. The second was a review of the writings of Baron Bunsen. It stated that the Bible account of the origin of the human race is partly traditional and partly imaginary; that the longevity of the patriarchs is fabulous; that the famous prophecy of Isaiah, 'He is despised and rejected of men,' &c., does not apply to the Messiah; that the Book of Daniel is the work of some patriotic bard, written in the reign of Antiochus; that 'justification by faith' simply means the peace of the soul; that regeneration implies the first strivings of the powers of the human soul; that salvation expresses the victory of virtue over vice and error; that hell is a figure of remorse, and heaven an image of the accomplishment of the love of God towards us. Though this essay took the form of a review of the works of Bunsen, the writer of it evidently adopted the views of their author. In the next essay, the principles which Niebuhr had applied to the documents from which he derived the History of Rome were applied no less boldly to the documents from which we derive the history of the Hebrews. The fifth essay assailed the Mosaic cosmogony. The sixth was comparatively inoffensive. The seventh recommended the interpretation and criticism of the Bible in the same manner and with the same freedom as any other book.

There was little that was original in these essays. The views they put forward had been enunciated in substance by writers outside the pale of the Church, if not outside the pale of Christianity. But what attracted general attention to this book, obtaining for it the admiring eulogiums of some and the indignant denunciations of others, was the fact that the essays it contained were the work of distinguished members of the national church—of men holding high positions in the University of Oxford or in the great public schools of the kingdom; of the Rev. Dr. Temple, the head-master of Rugby; of the Rev. Dr. Williams, vice-principal of St. David's College, Lampeter; of the Rev. Baden Powell, Savilian Professor of Astronomy in the University of Oxford; of Mr. Goodwin, a layman distinguished by his high attainments and Biblical learning; of the Rev. Mark Pattison, then tutor, and soon after principal, of Lincoln College, Oxford; and, lastly, of the Rev. J. B. Jowett, Regius Professor of Greek in the same university. A short preface stated that each of these gentlemen was responsible only for his own work, yet there was a unity of thought running through them which seemed to prove a foreknown general agreement of principle.

While these movements were taking place in connection with the University of Oxford, a still more audacious exposition of rationalistic views had been published by Dr. Colenso, Bishop of Natal, entitled, *The Pentateuch and the Book of Joshua critically examined.* In this work the Bishop endeavoured to show that the books he criticised were full of errors, that large portions of them were 'unhistorical,' or, in plain English, fabulous. A work of this nature, proceeding from the pen of a bishop holding his bishopric and ministering at the altars of the Established Church, provoked a loud outcry, which was rendered louder still by the appearance of the *Essays and Reviews* soon after. Hence followed appeals to the ecclesiastical tribunals, and ultimately to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. This tribunal, inheriting, as it did, the

traditions of the Star Chamber and the Court of High Commission, was, nevertheless, the Court by which all questions of this kind had to be decided; the decisions it gave were not calculated to raise its character or inspire confidence. In 1861, the Rev. Isidore Heath, prosecuted by the Bishop of Winchester, for the publication of a work similar in character to the *Essays and Reviews*, was convicted and deprived of his benefice. On the other hand, proceedings instituted by the Bishop of Salisbury against Dr. Williams, and by a clergyman named Fendall against Mr. Wilson, both writers in the *Essays and Reviews*, who had gone far beyond Mr. Heath in the advocacy of rationalistic views, were unsuccessful. Dr. Colenso was tried and condemned to deposition by his Metropolitan, the Bishop of Capetown, and two of his suffragans sitting with him as assessors; but this sentence was reversed by the Committee of Council, on the ground of the invalidity of the letters patent under which the various episcopal sees in South Africa had been created. An attempt made by the trustees of the episcopal fund to withhold the payment due to Dr. Colenso from that fund was equally unsuccessful. The question was raised before Lord Romilly, who decided it in the bishop's favour.

Far as these divines had gone in the ways of rationalism, another clergyman had trodden those paths with a still more fearless step. The Rev. Charles Voysey, vicar of Healaugh, in the county and diocese of York, attracted public attention in 1864 by a strongly-worded criticism of the teaching contained in 2 Samuel xxi. and xxiv. These strictures were followed by a periodical publication of Mr. Voysey's sermons, under the title of the *Sling and the Stone*, a work which openly assailed every cherished belief of Christendom. But if Mr. Voysey industriously demolished, he also attempted no less industriously to build up. He dwelt with great earnestness on the love and fatherhood of God, and on the perfect safety which, as he maintained, all men enjoyed everywhere in time and eternity, under

the protection of the Supreme Being. He taught the doctrine of human progress, and insisted that men could only learn what God is by being themselves upright, pure, and loving. He not only preached and published these doctrines, but proclaimed their absolute irreconcileableness with the creed of Christianity. It was no wonder that the ecclesiastical world protested loudly against the toleration of such teaching in the pulpits of the Church of the Thirty-nine Articles; and that the Archbishop of York, being called on to prevent the continuance of such a scandal in his diocese, reluctantly proceeded against Mr. Voysey. The real trial commenced in London on the 24th of June, 1869. Dr. Stanley, Dean of Westminster, and many other persons of eminence, contributed to a fund raised for Mr. Voysey's defence; but as it was insufficient, he pleaded his own cause, and endeavoured to show that there was nothing in his teaching that contradicted the express words of the Articles or the Liturgy. He was nevertheless sentenced to be deprived of his benefice unless he recanted the opinions he had advanced, which of course he would not consent to do.

We now turn our attention to a very different religious development which had been going on contemporaneously with that whose history we have concisely narrated. The æsthetic side of Tractarianism had contributed as powerfully as its dogmatic side to give impetus to the movement. The writers of the *Tracts for the Times* were generally men of great classical learning, of refined and poetic minds, in whom the imagination had been cultivated at the expense of the reasoning faculties. They were ardent admirers of the beautiful in history, poetry, sculpture, painting, and architecture;—but most especially of the ecclesiastical architecture of the Middle Ages, which had fallen into unmerited neglect. Their good taste was shocked by the manner in which our cathedrals and churches had been disfigured by ugly additions and fittings introduced into them in modern times. Thus to restore the old churches and build better new churches became one of the

characteristic objects of the movement; and many who cared little about the doctrines of the Tractarians were drawn towards them by the good taste they displayed, while they were repelled by the narrow views and puritanic prejudices of the evangelical party.

Under such influences, the old high-backed pews, ridiculed by the *Times* as 'lidless boxes,' and by Mr. Paget as 'dozing pans,' together with the 'three-deckers,' as they were called, and other ugly and ridiculous church furniture, were silently but swiftly supplanted by fittings more in harmony with the style of the buildings into which they had been introduced, and with the services carried on in them. The psalms and canticles, which had hitherto been read in almost all churches, even in London, begun to be chaunted. Hymns of a more poetical character gradually took the place of the religious doggrel of Sternhold and Hopkins, or Tate and Brady. These changes were not effected without loud and angry protests from those in whose minds the old fashions were associated with ideas of sacredness, and those which replaced them with mediæval doctrine. Still, in spite of all opposition, good taste prevailed, and was improved by a careful study of those grand minsters that stud our land, and churches began to rise in various places which vied with the old churches, and were fitted up with a tasteful magnificence that extorted the admiration even of those who feared that the revival of mediæval architecture might in some unexplained way lead to a revival of mediæval doctrine. And they were so far right in their suspicions that, owing to the circumstances we have already mentioned, the two developments went on together. Though there was no necessary connection between mediæval doctrines and mediæval architecture, yet, owing to the form and direction which the Tractarian movement assumed, they did as a matter of fact go on together. The men who found so much to admire in those ages, which they had once regarded as 'dark,' began to regard all connected with them as admirable. The mediæval church

suggested the mediæval ritual. The clergyman ministering in one of those new and splendid basilicas, felt that, in his surplice of modern cut, he was a sort of living anachronism amidst all the gorgeous mediævalism by which he was surrounded, and began to desire vestments that harmonised with the temple in which, and the altar at which, he ministered. He was further prompted to carry out this desire by the consideration that the habits for which he sighed tended to distinguish the service of the eucharist from the other services of the church, and to elevate, in the eyes of the multitude, that sacrament which was the keystone of his doctrinal system, and which had fallen into a neglect greatly deplored by the religious school to which he belonged. The desire thus awakened seemed to be warranted by the rubrics prefixed to the Book of Common Prayer, which directed that 'the ornaments of the church and the ministers thereof, at all times of their ministrations, shall be retained and be in use as they were in this Church of England, by the authority of Parliament, in the second year of King Edward VI.' It seemed highly probable that the vestments in question had been in use at that period, and eminent lawyers and antiquarians gave their opinion that this was the case. The consequence was, a gradual increase in the ceremoniousness with which the services, especially the eucharistic service, were celebrated, and the re-introduction into our churches of ornaments which had been used in very few of them since the Restoration. These innovations, warmly championed by a few, were condemned by the overwhelming majority of churchmen, and those who practised them were denounced as Ritualists. Various ineffectual efforts were made to put them down, both in and out of Parliament; and with this view a society—which took the title of the Church Association, composed chiefly of persons belonging to the Evangelical party in the Church—was formed for the avowed purpose of stamping out rationalism and ritualism, but especially the latter: for though the former laid its axe to the

very root of evangelicalism, yet, as the latter more palpably presented itself to the eye, it excited a keener hatred and a more strenuous opposition. The Church Association, in its attempts to put down Ritualism, relied not so much on the force of argument as on the force of money. That party, whose peculiar boast it had hitherto been that the weapons of their warfare were not carnal, entered the field trusting in the very carnal weapon of 50,000*l*. Proceedings were taken by this wealthy society in the Ecclesiastical Courts. Of course, those who were assailed by it felt unable to contend with adversaries who could purchase the very best legal assistance, while they had no means of retaining counsel at all. Some of them allowed judgment to go against them by default, others pleaded their own cause. Decisions so obtained naturally did not command the respect with which Englishmen are wont to regard the decisions of a legal tribunal. The feeling with which an unequal struggle is generally regarded was powerfully evoked by the spectacle of a poor clergyman contending against a great and wealthy association commanding the best advice. The consequence was, that while individual Ritualists suffered—one of them even to death—Ritualism gained ground; the persecuted clergymen were regarded as martyrs, and the popular feeling against them rapidly abated. The principle by which the Court of Appeal seems to have been guided in its decisions—if any principle is to be traced amidst the varying, and apparently conflicting, judgments of a tribunal whose members were changed every time that a case was brought before it—was that of great indulgence with regard to doctrinal uniformity, and a strictness that would have astonished Laud himself with regard to ritual uniformity.

Thus during the period over which this work extends there were no fewer than three distinct schools or parties in the Church: the old orthodox High Church party, still embracing the majority of the clergy, and keeping aloof from the strifes and prosecutions to which we have referred, except when it

found itself or its practices interfered with by them; the Evangelical party, the best members of which repudiated the Church Association; the Broad Church party, of which Dr. Arnold and Dr. Hampden had been the first leaders; the Rationalistic and Ritualistic schools, comprising a large number of young and energetic clergymen and laymen; and, lastly, the Tractarians, who still adhered to the principles originally laid down in the *Tracts for the Times*, without adopting the developments which they had evolved. These parties shaded away into each other, and each might be subdivided into several different schools, the ultimate ramifications of which it would be useless and impossible to trace.

While the Church was torn by these struggles and controversies, another movement was being carried on in her bosom which attracted much attention from men of all classes and opinions. It was generally known as the free and open church movement, set on foot and carried on mainly through the exertions of Mr. Edward Herford, the coroner of Manchester. Mr. Herford had been brought up as a Unitarian, and while he belonged to that communion had distinguished himself by the interest he had taken in Sunday schools, and in various useful institutions. In his maturer years he had embraced with warmth and earnestness the doctrines of the Church; but was distressed to find how little she was in anything but in name the church of the nation, and especially how completely the working classes had become estranged from her. He at once began to consider the cause of this alienation. He found that in every part of the kingdom the sittings in the old parish churches, which had once been open to all parishioners without distinction of person, had in many intances been appropriated to the wealthier inhabitants, who, though they had no legal right to the pews they occupied, had excluded all others from them, and in some instances had put locks on the doors to prevent any one from entering them when they were absent from church. In this manner the poor had been gradually excluded

from all but a few remote sittings, which were the hottest places in the church in summer, and the coldest in winter, and in which it was often difficult either to see or to hear the officiating minister. In the locality in which Mr. Herford himself resided matters were still worse. Owing to the rapid growth of the population, churches had been erected for which little or no endowment had been provided, and in which the income of the minister arose chiefly or entirely from pew-rents. The consequence was that the system of exclusion, which in other parts of the country existed in spite of law, had here been legalised, and the exclusion of the poor was more complete, and the distinction between the pews and the free sittings more ostentatiously invidious, than in any other part of the kingdom. Mr. Herford at once saw that this was the cause of the evil which had so much shocked and grieved him; and he devoted himself with indomitable energy and perseverance to the endeavour to remedy it by insisting that all sittings in churches should be free, and open to every parishioner, and that nothing should be placed in them which would imply a right to prevent its being occupied by any one who might find it vacant. Mr. Herford did not contend that this change should be carried out at once in all churches. As a lawyer, he was naturally disposed to regard vested interests even when they had been improperly created, and he wished to see the clergy placed in a position of independence by deriving their support from fixed endowments rather than from any precarious sources of income. But he earnestly contended that the offertory collected during the communion service in accordance with the rubrics of the church, afforded a means of support to the clergy which was far preferable to pew-rents; and in order to bring this opinion to the test of practical experience, he actively promoted the erection of the church of St. Alban, Manchester, in the midst of a poor population, the seats of which were to be free, and open to all, and in which the support of the minister, the expenses connected with the due performance of the services, and the maintenance of the fabric, were to be provided for by offertories collected in

the church: a design zealously and ably carried out by the Rev. J. E. Sedgwick, the first minister of the district in which the church was erected, under circumstances of peculiar difficulty and discouragement. Early in the year 1852, Mr. Herford started a periodical, *The Church of the People*, the name of which indicated with energetic conciseness the object he sought to attain. In 1857 he set on foot a free and open church association for the purpose of endeavouring to procure the gradual adoption of his views in existing churches, and their immediate adoption in those which might be erected at any future time. He laboured with untiring diligence to promote this object, by letters to various periodicals, by discussions at church-congresses, and in various other ways.

The system thus originated and thus urged forward has been carried out in twelve churches in Manchester alone, and in a great number of churches in other parts of the manufacturing districts. In many old parish churches throughout the kingdom pews illegally appropriated have been restored to the parishioners; in others the weekly offertory has been established in lieu of pew-rents. In numerous new churches, in which the pew-rent system would have been adopted, the free and open system has been preferred, in consequence of the protests made by Mr. Herford and those associated with him; and in a still larger number a compromise between the two systems has been effected, in virtue of which one half of the church, and that at least as advantageously situated and as convenient as the other moiety, has been made free and open to all alike. Thus the labours of Mr. Herford have produced a great effect, and caused a largely increased attendance of the working class, not only in churches but also in many nonconformist chapels, in which Mr. Herford's views have been adopted.

In no period in the history of this or any other country has the progress of the nation been so great or so manifest as in that whose history we have attempted to narrate. By the census of 1831 the population of England and Wales was

13,897,187. The enumeration of 1871 showed a population of 22,704,108. Consequently during the interval there had been an increase of 8,106,921. This increase had been tolerably steady and uniform. In the first decade it was 2,016,961; in the second, 2,013,461; in the third, 2,138,615; and in the fourth, 2,637,884. Thus, although there can be no doubt that a time must come when the population of this country will cease to increase, there is no indication at present that we are approaching the limit. But the population has not only much augmented, it is maintained with greater ease, is far better fed, housed, clad, and educated, at the close of the period than it was at its commencement. We may further remark, that the increase we have noted has taken place principally in the metropolis, in the great manufacturing towns of the north, in the mining districts, in the chief commercial ports, and lastly, in places resorted to for sea-bathing, recreation, and health. At the commencement of the period embraced by this History about one person in ten received elementary education, and that in very many instances of a most imperfect character; before its close, provision had been made for the inauguration of a national system intended and calculated to secure a sound elementary education for almost every child in the kingdom. At the commencement of this period the population was decimated by zymotic and other diseases arising from unwholesome food and the neglect of sanitary precautions; at the close of it these diseases had to a great extent disappeared, because the causes that produced and propagated them had been partially removed, and in the cases which still remain they have lost much of their virulence, and are less fatal in their consequences. At the commencement of the period the paupers constituted a very large part of the population of the kingdom; at its close, the proportion, though still far too large, had greatly diminished.

If it should be asked, how it has come to pass that the same country which at the end of the year 1830 was with great

difficulty supporting a population of thirteen millions, should now be maintaining in comparative plenty a population of more than twenty-two millions? the answer is, that this great result has been produced by freer trade, wiser legislation, improved institutions, a better education of the people, a wider diffusion of information through the press and by means of public meetings, the post office, and the electric telegraph; by the better and swifter conveyance of goods and persons; by the extraordinary extension and perfection of our mechanical processes; by the improvements that have been introduced into our agricultural operations, through which the produce of the land has been enormously increased; by the facilities that have been afforded for the profitable employment both of large and small capitals. And if it should further be asked, what is the great secret of this marvellous progress, and what the best guarantee for its continuance? the answer is: It is to be found in the liberty that is enjoyed by every man of bringing before his fellow-citizens whatever he may deem to be for the public advantage, with a fair prospect of obtaining due consideration of the merits of his proposals.

A still stronger guarantee of the continued development of national prosperity is to be found in the more moral and religious character of our legislation, as it has become the more distinct utterance of public opinion and national will. At the commencement of the period we have been treating, Ireland's cry for justice was treated with insolent derision; at the close of it the maxim, 'Be just, and fear not,' has become the cardinal principle of our legislation; and its unflinching application, as exemplified in the Irish land bill, the tradesunion bill, the licensing bill, the education bill, and many other recent measures of legislation, is the recognised panacea of our social evils, the mainspring of our wondrous progress.

That progress is calculated to inspire us with feelings of hope and confidence. Much of it has been effected amidst circum-

stances of passion, prejudice, and party spirit, that seemed ill adapted to produce any beneficial result; and yet our course has been one of steady, rapid, and almost unvarying improvement; confirming and illustrating the saying of the greatest of England's poets:

> 'There's a Divinity that shapes our ends,
> Rough-hew them how we will.'

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BILLING AND SONS, PRINTERS, GUILDFORD, SURREY

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Digitized with financial assistance from the
Government of Maharashtra
on 18 July, 2018